Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-221
Thursday
15 November 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-221 *15 November 1990*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt, Libya Talk; Iraq Submits Summit Agenda *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
Iraqi Official Gives Terms for Arab Summit *[Algiers Radio]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Message to 'Arafat From Saddam Delivered *[Algiers VOP]* 2
'Arafat Addresses Palestinians on Anniversary *[Baghdad VOP]* 2

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Ramadan Comments on Meeting With Bendjedid *[Algiers Radio]* 3
'Democratic Generation' Party Formed 13 Nov *[Algiers Radio]* 3

Egypt

Soviet Presidential Envoy Belonogov Arrives *[MENA]* 3
Writer Urges Action To Resolve Gulf Crisis *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 6 Nov]* 3
Paper on New Security Council Resolution on Gulf *[MENA]* 4
Commentary Views Mubarak Tour, Gulf Crisis *[Cairo Radio]* 4
Commentary Views Ways To Influence Iraqi Stance *[Cairo Radio]* 5
Israeli Behavior Likened To Saddam Actions *[MENA]* 5
Gulf States Given Priority in Arms Deliveries *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 8 Nov]* 5
Meeting To Reschedule Debts To Open 15 Nov *[Cairo Radio]* 6
Increase in U.S. Assistance for Power Plants *[Cairo Radio]* 6

Libya

Egypt's Mubarak Concludes Visit, Departs *[JANA]* 6
Official Holds Talks With Italian Envoy 6
Discusses Exiled Nationals *[JANA]* 6
Meets PRC, Yemen Ambassadors *[JANA]* 7
Two British MP's Arrive in Tripoli 14 Nov *[JANA]* 7

Morocco

Ramadan Says Iraq Supports 'Serious Dialogue' *[INA]* 7
Concludes Visit *[MAP]* 7
Soviet Envoy Discusses Purpose of Visit *[Rabat Radio]* 7
Tourism Agreement With Syria Signed *[SANA]* 8

Sudan

INA Claims Saudi Pilot Defects to Sudan 8
Rebels Condemn Government 'Air Raids' on Torit *[Radio SPLA]* 8
Eight Killed in Clashes With Security Forces *[AFP]* 8

Tehran Radio Reports Failed Coup Attempt *[Tehran International]* 8
Government Reports Increased Sorghum Production *[SUNA]* 9

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

'Thousands' Register for Military Training Abroad *[Cairo AL-ANBA' 13 Nov]* 10
Resistance Group Eliminates Ba'th Leaders' 'Den' *[Cairo AL-ANBA' 11 Nov]* 10
UK Official Warns of Military Decision 'Soon' *[London KUNA]* 10
Paper Calls Peace Efforts 'Time-Wasting Mirage' *[Cairo AL-ANBA' 13 Nov]* 11

Qatar

Canadian National Defense Minister Arrives 12
On Regional Tour *[WAKH]* 12
Discusses Crisis With Amir *[WAKH]* 12

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Demands Iraqi Withdrawal *[Riyadh TV]* 12
Jordanians Said Participating in 'Looting' Kuwait *[AL-YAWM 12 Nov]* 12

United Arab Emirates

Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Arrives on Visit *[WAKH]* 13
Received by President Zayid *[WAKH]* 13
Zayid Stresses Nonaligned Role *[WAKH]* 13
Departs Following Two-Day Visit *[WAKH]* 13

Yemen

President on Gulf Crisis, Saudi Arabia Dispute *[Sanaa Radio]* 13
Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit 14
To Discuss Crisis Solution *[Sanaa Radio]* 14
Delivers Gorbachev Message to Salih *[Sanaa Radio]* 14

IRAQ

U.S. Landing Operation Called 'Provocative Act' *[INA]* 15
'Aziz Says Baker Remarks Bid for World Control *[Baghdad Radio]* 15
Commentary Says Americans Against Bush on Gulf *[Baghdad International]* 15
Officials, Papers React to Thatcher 13 Nov Speech 15
Jasim Views 'Hostile Threat' *[INA]* 15
World 'Closer' to War *[INA]* 16
Loss of Popularity Linked to Gulf *[AL-'IRAQ 11 Nov]* 16
New Opposition Group Outlines Aims, Appeal *[AL-ANBA' 11 Nov]* 17
New Kuwait Governor, Other Officials Sworn In *[INA]* 17
Iranian Foreign Minister Begins Talks With 'Aziz *[INA]* 17
Meets With Saddam *[INA]* 18
Visits Imam's Tomb *[INA]* 18
Nicaragua's Ortega Arrives To Discuss Crisis *[INA]* 18
International 'Peace Camp' To Open in Baghdad *[INA]* 18
Italians to Participate *[INA]* 18
Soviet Delegation Arrives *[INA]* 18
Meets With Jasim *[INA]* 19
Camp Opens 13 Nov *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
Baghdad Planning 'World Peace Festival' in Feb *[INA]* 19
Speaker Meets Former New Zealand Prime Minister *[INA]* 19
Ramadan Meets Former Danish Prime Minister *[INA]* 20
Swedish 'Peace' Team Arrives With Medicine *[INA]* 20
Second Shipment Delivered *[INA]* 20

Italian Peace Messenger Criticizes UN *[INA]* 20
Meets Assembly Speaker *[Baghdad Radio]* 21
Italian Delegations Appeal for Guests' Release *[INA]* 21
German Red Cross Praises Treatment of Foreigners *[INA]* 21
Australian Red Cross Official Lauds 'Great Care' *[INA]* 22
Belgian Red Cross To Provide Blood Bank, Food *[INA]* 22
Spanish Official Opposes Foreign Presence *[INA]* 22
Ramadan Receives Cooperation Council Official *[INA]* 22
Jasim Meets Mauritanian Information Minister *[Baghdad Radio]* 22
Ramadan Meets With PLF's Abu-al-'Abbas *[Baghdad Radio]* 22
Saddam Receives Cable From French Peace Group *[INA]* 23
Ramadan Says Talks With Morocco's Hassan 'Useful' *[Voice of the Masses]* 23
Swiss Economy Department Bans Sending Food *[INA]* 24
Swiss Society Sends Second Shipment of Medicine *[INA]* 24
Price of Rice Bought From Farmers Raised *[Voice of the Masses]* 24

ISRAEL

Shamir Says Jordan Border 'Serious' Problem *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
Arens on U.S. Cooperation, Gulf Crisis *[Jerusalem TV]* 25
Levi Says Cooperation With U.S. 'Intensified' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 15 Nov]* 30
Levi Signs Cooperation Agreement With Zaire *[Tel Aviv HATZOFE 8 Nov]* 30
Agudat Yisra'el, SHAS Deny Report on Deal *[THE JERSUALEM POST 11 Nov]* 31
Elite Units Sent to Reinforce Jordan Border *[THE JERUSALEM POST 15 Nov]* 31
Probable Kakh Supporter Stabs Jew, Arab *[Jerusalem TV]* 31
IDF Imposes Wide-Scale Curfews in Territories *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Four Suspected of 'Collaborating' Killed in Gaza *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Unrest, Sentences, Demolitions, Reported Nov 8 *[THE JERUSALEM POST 8 Nov, etc.]* 32
Islamic Radicalization Trend Seen in Intifadah *[HA'ARTEZ 12 Nov]* 33
Poll Asks For Solution to Territories Question *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 9 Nov]* 33
130 Falashas Arrive 8 Nov; More Expected *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
107 Arrive 15 Nov *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34
Number of Soviet Jews Settling in Jerusalem Drops *[THE JERUSALEM POST 9 Nov]* 34
Leaders Urged To Accept New U.S. UN Policy *[HA'ARETZ 13 Nov]* 34

JORDAN

Al-Qasim Meets Daniel Ortega, Discusses Gulf *[Amman Radio]* 36
Mauritanian Minister Stops En Route to Iraq *[Amman TV]* 36
Novelist Says No Choice But To Support Saddam *[JORDAN TIMES 24 Oct]* 36
Columnist on Israeli Warnings on Infiltrations *[AL-RA'Y 14 Nov]* 37
Official Tally of Assets in Kuwait Questioned *[AL-RA'Y 12 Nov]* 38
Jordanian, Foreign Arrivals From Iraq, Kuwait *[Amman TV]* 38
Large Percent Oppose Foreign Presence in Gulf *[AL-DUSTUR 13 Nov]* 38
Two Treasury Bond Types Offered in Dollars *[JORDAN TIMES 13 Nov]* 39
Transit Trade Declined Because of Gulf Crisis *[Amman TV]* 39
Tourism Losses Set at 400 Million Dinars *[JORDAN TIMES 13 Nov]* 39
Transport Sector 'Greatly Harmed' by Crisis *[PETRA-JNA]* 40
Airline Chief Expects Large Yearly Losses *[JORDAN TIMES 12 Nov]* 41
Shipping Agents Brief Al-Qasim on 'Embargo' *[AL-DUSTUR 13 Nov]* 41
Economist Challenges Official Loss Estimates *[AL-RA'Y 10 Nov]* 42

LEBANON

Five Frenchmen Attacked North of Beirut *[AFP]* 43
Developments in Withdrawals From Iqlim al-Tuffah 43
Palestinians Want Negotiations *[RFL]* 43
'Arafat Said Causing Delay *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Withdrawals To Begin 15 Nov *[Beirut Radio]* 43
Al-Musawi on Iranian Hostages, 'Arafat Forces *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 44

Al-Musawi Links Western, Iranian Hostages *[VOM]* 44
Cabinet Defines Greater Beirut Boundaries *[VOL]* 44
Radio Lists Greater Beirut Party Offices Closed *[Beirut Radio]* 45
Al-Hirawi Speaks to Lawyers About Greater Beirut *[Beirut Radio]* 45
Claim Regarding 'Awn's Partial Paralysis Reported *[AL-SHIRA' 12 Nov]* 45
Sources Say Ja'ja' Will Visit Damascus *[VOM]* 45
Sources on Dispute Over Next Security Director *[RFL]* 45
AFP on Hizballah Presence in Ba'labakk 46
Statistics on 'Terrorist' Attacks From South *[Tel Aviv DAVAR 8 Nov]* 46

SYRIA

President Mubarak Arrives in Damascus 14 Nov *[MENA]* 47
Meets With Al-Asad *[SANA]* 47
Holds Second Closed Meeting *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Al-Zu'bi, Egyptian Minister Discuss Cooperation *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Al-Asad, Mubarak Talks 'Focus' of Arab Attention *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Yugoslavia's Loncar Arrives in Damascus 14 Nov 47
Makes Statement *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Meets With Al-Asad *[SANA]* 48
Minister Discusses Economic Issues With Soviets *[SANA]* 48
Papers on Lebanese Accord, Rifts Caused by Iraq *[Damascus Radio]* 48

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Greets India's New Prime Minister *[BAKHTAR]* 49
USSR Delivers Two Airliners to Ariana Air *[Kabul Radio]* 49
Relations Praised on Soviet National Day *[BAKHTAR]* 49
Clashes Reported Among 'Extremist' Groups *[Kabul Radio]* 49

Bangladesh

Ershad Travels to Tokyo for Enthronement 50
Departs 9 Nov *[Dhaka International]* 50
Meets Indian President *[Dhaka International]* 50
Returns From Tokyo 14 Nov *[Dhaka Radio]* 50
Turkish President Stops En Route to Tokyo *[Dhaka International]* 50
Ershad Greets New Indian Prime Minister *[Dhaka International]* 50
Dhaka 'Paralyzed' by Strike; Marchers Charged *[AFP]* 51
Opposition Urged To Shun Path Of Violence *[Dhaka Radio]* 51

India

Shekhar Remarks on Problems Facing Country *[Delhi Radio]* 51
More on Shekhar Remarks *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Sikhs, Muslims Clash With Hindus in Delhi 52
V.P. Singh Condemns Clashes *[Delhi Radio]* 52
Clashes in Delhi, Jullundur *[London International]* 52
Indefinite Curfew in Delhi *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Delhi 'Under Control' *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Nationals Returning From Kuwait Assisted *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Parties Discuss Strategy for Confidence Vote *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Congress-I Member Yadav Resigns From Party *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Police Kill Assam Tribal 'Extremists' *[Delhi Radio]* 54

Iran

Khamene'i Praises Velayati for Iraq Peace Process *[IRNA]* 54
Yazdi Speaks on Corruption to Judiciary Meeting *[Tehran TV]* 54

Yemeni Official, Besharati Discuss Ties, Gulf 54
Relations To Expand *[Tehran TV]* 54
Received by Karrubi *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Yugoslavian Official Concludes Visit, Departs *[IRNA]* 55
Mo'ayeri Meets With Zimbabwe, CSFR Officials *[IRNA]* 55
44 Egyptian POW's 'Unilaterally' Released 13 Nov *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Commercial Exhibition Opens in Azerbaijan 56
Officials To Meet *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Delegations' Visit Detailed *[Tehran International]* 56
Tehran Paper on Majles Differences, Persian Gulf *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 25 Oct]* 56
Deputies Continue Discussion of State Budget *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Major Anti-Insurgent, Drug Operation Succeeds *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Seven Narcotics Smugglers Executed 14 Nov *[IRNA]* 58
*Italy Ranks As Third Trading Partner *[London KEYHAN 18 Oct]* 58

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt, Libya Talk; Iraq Submits Summit Agenda

JN1411180090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] President Husni Mubarak held a third round of talks with President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi before leaving Surt heading for Damascus. The talks dealt with the continuing consultations and contacts to convene an extraordinary Arab summit and the possibilities of a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis. Our correspondent in Surt will put us in the picture about the Egyptian-Libyan summit and will brief us on Iraq's draft five-point agenda for the proposed Arab summit. Through its envoys, Baghdad communicated the draft agenda to some Arab leaders, according to our correspondent in Surt, Mustafa Bakri:

[Begin Bakri recording] According to well-informed sources, the talks focused on future possibilities for settling the Gulf crisis peacefully and the recent Soviet-American consultations. During the meeting, al-Qadhdhafi expressed his fears that the United States would ignite the military situation in the region through a surprise action against Iraq. He noted that the American military operations will not only be aimed to strike at Iraq, but to strike at all Arab targets in the region. Al-Qadhdhafi asked President Mubarak to play a strong role in preventing America from carrying out such an action.

On his part, the Egyptian president said he would inform U.S. President George Bush, during his visit to the region, of a number of basic principles that define his country's position on the crisis, including the following:

1. Egypt supports the continuation of political efforts to contain the crisis. It will ask the United States to support the other international efforts to solve the crisis peacefully.

2. The economic and aerial sanctions imposed on Iraq should be given enough time to prove their effectiveness, particularly since Egypt is confident that Iraq will not hold on for long in the face of these sanctions, which might lead to a positive development in the Iraqi position.

President Mubarak asked the leader of the Libyan revolution to inform the Iraqi president that the continuation of his rigid position might make war inevitable. The two parties agreed on the need for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, although Colonel al-Qadhdhafi stressed the need for the foreign forces' withdrawal from the Gulf.

In another development, our radio has learned that Iraq has informed the countries to which it recently dispatched envoys of the proposed agenda of the extraordinary summit called for by Morocco. This agenda contains the following five points:

1. Regional security of the Arab countries and the effect of foreign presence on the dimensions of this security.

2. The issue of social justice between the wealthy Arab countries and the countries facing economic problems.

3. Discussing the issue of Kuwait within the framework of the discussion of Iraq's historical and economic rights.

4. Iraq's readiness to settle all the problems in the region and accepting Arab opinion regarding Gulf security if the international powers in return can resolve the Palestine question.

5. Discussing Arab security arrangements that can uproot the foreign influence from any Arab country.

It has been learned that some countries that were informed of the Iraqi message asked Iraq to list directly the issue of withdrawal from Kuwait. However, Iraq replied that if this issue is listed on the agenda, the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territory should also be listed on the agenda. It was also learned that Iraq informed these countries of its desire to convene the extraordinary summit in Jordan. [end recording]

Iraqi Official Gives Terms for Arab Summit

LD1411200490 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Iraq surprises us again. It is raising new conditions concerning the holding of the extraordinary Arab summit. All the decisions against Baghdad adopted by the Cairo summit must be cancelled first.

During this summit, 12 heads of state demanded the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi armed forces from Kuwait and approved the dispatching of a pan-Arab force to Saudi Arabia. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi, who is in Algiers, made these remarks this morning to Abdelghani Toualbi in an exclusive interview with Channel 3.

[Begin Hammadi recording in Arabic, with summary following in French] Naturally, we are not invited to attend a ceremonial meeting which is aimed at expressing support, or moral support for an issue upon which there is unanimity. The issue before us is not of this kind. Therefore, we believe that if one wants the Arab solution to be successful, serious, and beneficial instead of harming the Arab issues, this meeting should be prepared.

We think that, first, there should be consultations with the sides directly involved. There should be discussions, official or not, secret or not, with these sides. Formulas should be proposed until we reach one which acquires the unanimity of the sides concerned or the nearest thing to unanimity. A restricted meeting of these sides should take place. A new study of the matter should be conducted in order to close the gaps between the various sides.

Once we have concluded these discussions and come to this stage of agreement, it will be possible to hold the general meeting of the Arab countries. This meeting would take place to give its blessing, to make official, and guarantee moral support. King Hassan II's call was

meant to gather all the Arab countries immediately in an Arab summit in Morocco for one week. If this is what the call means, we think that the meeting will not lead to a solution to the issues which are supposed to be solved.

I think that any talk about holding an Arab meeting or summit must take into account the presence of the sides directly concerned, foremost among which is Iraq. In this context, I must say—and this is obvious—that the considerations regarding the venue, the security, and the possibility of holding the summit should be taken into account. This is not a marginal issue, and when one proposes a place and a time for any meeting and wants His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to attend, one should take this issue into account if we are serious. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Right now, Sa'dun Hammadi is meeting the president of the Republic

Palestinian Affairs

Message to 'Arafat From Saddam Delivered

LD1411185590 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Excerpt] The brother leader, president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], has received a written message from his brother President Saddam Husayn concerning the latest political developments witnessed in the region. The message was delivered to the organization's premises in Tunis by brother Sa'dun Hammadi, the Iraqi deputy prime minister. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Addresses Palestinians on Anniversary

JN1411201790 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1755 GMT 14 Nov 90

["Text" of message from "President" Yasir 'Arafat "to the masses of our Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied homeland on the second anniversary of announcing independence;" date not given—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] This is the day of awakening in Palestinian history and in the Arab-Zionist confrontation. It is the day we reached through columns of martyrs, a torrent of blood, great sacrifices and tribulations, and generous giving. It is the day on which we declared our independence, which we inscribed with our jihad, struggle, sweat, blood, efforts, and pains to respond to the statement made by the Zionists at the Basel Conference in 1897 that Palestine is a land without people for a people without a homeland, and to reaffirm that our Palestinian land is Arab and that it is for its Palestinian Arab people.

On this day, the second anniversary of announcing independence, our blessed and glorious intifadah, which drafted through its great militant action the speech of the announcement and elevated it to its level in world awareness and conscience, is escalating. Today, it is stronger and more determined to embody our national independence in our free Palestinian land.

O brothers and my beloved ones: Let us reinforce the march of honest and faithful jihad. Let us escalate the path of struggle, resistance, and challenge with all forms of struggle and challenge through our mammoth popular masses—our children, men, women, youth, and old men—in every part of our beloved homeland in the cities, villages, and camps.

O courageous knights; O protectors of the sacred dream; O our struggling people in all positions of revolution and struggle: On this great Palestinian day, we look with great confidence and hope. Today, we are closer to holy Jerusalem than at any time in the past, when Palestine and its cause are in the middle of this world crisis in the Gulf and the world. It is in the heart of world concern and in the heart of a burning furnace. It has put everyone to the test on all Arab and international levels, as well as on principles, policies, positions, and international legitimacy. At the same time, peace efforts are being made regarding the Gulf crisis or the Middle East crisis, particularly the Palestine question. Everybody is now aware of this important fact, as it is the basis of solving all crises. Peace begins from this issue, and crises break out by ignoring it.

O brothers: Our role emerges at this stage not to confront a crisis only, but to put an end to all crises in the region and to urge the international community to move on the path of a just and comprehensive peace in the region without the specter of a disastrous war, God forbid, in our nation, region, or the world. And those who benefit from this war are the enemies of our nation; those seeking to control our land, resources, and wealth; and those who aim at striking at Iraq, Iraq's strength, and the technological progress achieved by Iraq. They went beyond this to starve the people and children of Iraq to control oil sources, oil prices, and oil reserves. [passage omitted]

Yes, O brothers; yes, O beloved ones; yes, O heroic strugglers: Our role today is this farsighted, sound, and militant role that seeks to achieve well-being for our nation and to safeguard its future, national security, sovereignty, progress, and prosperity. This role seeks to restore rights and to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region that maintains the security of everybody, the rights of everybody, and the interests of everybody. It has become firm, clear, and decisive that goodness, peace, and stability can only be achieved through solving all problems and issues in a comprehensive and interlinked way, particularly through regaining our Palestinian Arab people's national rights, particularly their right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishing their independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Ramadan Comments on Meeting With Bendjedid

LD1411231490 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Diplomatically, Iraq is moving toward the Arab Maghreb countries to coordinate efforts for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi, one of the Iraqi envoys to the region, had talks in Algiers at the Presidency with President Chadli Bendjedid and handed him a message from President Saddam Husayn.

During the talks with the Iraqi envoy, President Chadli Bendjedid stressed the need for the United Nations to take up all the problems of the Arab region, especially the Palestinian problem.

Following these talks, the Iraqi envoy made a statement to the press, saying:

[Begin Hammadi recording] I delivered a message to his excellency the president from President Saddam Husayn, and discussed in detail with his excellency Arab affairs, particularly what is called the Gulf crisis, and other Arab issues: The Palestinian cause, Arab relations, and the matters which can be related to the Arab meetings and Arab conferences. We also discussed and exchanged views on an Arab solution, and on the probability for war. I made plain to his excellency the president our situation in Iraq, and I explained to his excellency that we are confident in every respect, and that we are against —that we do not want war, that we try to avoid it—but if it is imposed on us and takes place, we will fight for our independence, for the dignity of the Arab nation and (?its causes) with all the force, with all we have. [end recording]

'Democratic Generation' Party Formed 13 Nov

LD1311215990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Excerpt] The birth of a new party was witnessed today. It is the Democratic Generation party, which submitted its file to the Interior Ministry today. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Soviet Presidential Envoy Belonogov Arrives

NC1511112090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Aleksandr Belonogov, deputy foreign minister and President Gorbachev's envoy, arrived here this morning on a short visit to Egypt. During his stay, the Soviet envoy will meet with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, as well as with Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials.

Writer Urges Action To Resolve Gulf Crisis

JN0911201990 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Nov 90 p 12

["Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] While in Egypt, French President Francois Mitterrand was eager to explain his country's position on the Gulf crisis—a position that looked vague at one point.

Mitterrand said clearly: "We are not gripped by warlike feelings, but this should not be at the expense of international rights." He added: "Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has wasted a lot of time that could be used to spare the world a destructive conflict."

A few hours earlier, Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim was saying at a news conference in Baghdad that the world should forget Kuwait now that it had become an Iraqi governorate, and that all should behave accordingly!

And he added—as if determined to defy the feelings of the whole world—that the relationship between Iraq and Kuwait is like the relationship between a man and his own hand. Iraq lost one of its hands and had now returned it to its old position, and by no means would it lose it again!

Can there be any stronger insistence on closing all doors to peace than this?

And has Iraqi arrogance gone that far—as if Saddam Husayn's grip holds tight the entire world, east, west, north, and south?

Yes, there is nothing wrong in pursuing peace up to the last minute, but the question that violently shakes the heads is: What is next?

Those who will say that war is the alternative will be making a grave mistake. The size of the disaster is known in advance, and it would be a disgrace for humanity if it destroys, of its own accord, the gains that it has worked hard to achieve over the years and ages.

But there is another more pressing and more violent question on the opposite side: How long must the Kuwaiti people remain dispersed and lost, with usurped dignity and conquered will?

And here the answer becomes difficult, indeed impossible. But it is necessary and unavoidable, or else all cards will be on fire, and the result will be "zero"!

And we have learned since we were babies that zero has no value if it stands to the left of the figure. If it does not move to the right, it will continue to be—like many other things in this world—worthless!!

And I think no "human being" would like to be a zero.

Paper on New Security Council Resolution on Gulf

NC1011221790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2108 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Nov (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper reports that extremely important consultations are under way on a new UN Security Council resolution that would complement and enhance earlier resolutions and serve as a peace plan to settle the Gulf crisis. These consultations, the paper says, take place at a time when U.S. President George Bush has announced plans to increase the number of U.S. forces in the Gulf so as to ensure that the military option could be adequately pursued should the need arise.

In an editorial in its Sunday [11 November] edition, the paper notes that plan urges Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally, to release detained foreign nationals, and to allow Kuwait to regain its territory and to have its legitimate authorities return to power. Furthermore, the paper says, the plan calls for sending an international peacekeeping force consisting of Arab regiments under the UN flag to undertake responsibility for maintaining law and order while the withdrawal takes place.

The paper points out that some might think there is a contradiction between these two developments, but further consideration reveals the harmony between them. The paper notes that Bush's message is a final warning to Saddam Husayn to return to his senses and to abide by the international legitimacy's resolutions.

It points out that the plan also calls for lifting the economic blockade and sanctions imposed on Iraq as soon as Iraq declares its commitment to the Security Council resolutions.

The paper says that the plan has been put forward by the nonaligned countries and Saudi Arabia, which imparts special weight and seriousness to it.

The paper expects that a solution will come soon, perhaps before President Bush's upcoming visit to the region, as a culmination of Egyptian diplomacy's serious efforts and current Arab coordination and contacts.

Commentary Views Mubarak Tour, Gulf Crisis

NC1411214090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "Mubarak's Talks With al-Qadhdhafi and al-Asad Are Aimed at Bolstering Efforts Toward a Peaceful Settlement to the Gulf Crisis"]

[Excerpts] Because the phenomenon and behavior of the head of the Iraqi regime, Saddam Husayn, are abnormal in the international order that began formulating new relationships to face the upcoming stage, the whole world from the outset has condemned the Iraqi ruler's crime of usurping Kuwait by force. The whole world demanded that Saddam withdraw from fraternal Kuwait immediately and unconditionally, and return the legitimate government. Because the world realizes the dangers of any destructive war that might erupt in the Gulf region, it has given the Iraqi ruler a lengthy time to reconsider this action, correct the mistake, and solve the Gulf crisis peacefully.

Saddam Husayn, however, has continued to maneuver in the hope that the world might back down or get fed up, leaving him to enjoy his stolen booty. Saddam has not realized that the world's patience is due to the fact that it is seeking to save him personally from the dilemma in which he has embroiled himself and out of concern for the fraternal Iraqi people who are not to blame for what Saddam Husayn has done. There is, however, an end to everything; indications and signs in recent weeks, after the world has gotten fed up with the Iraqi ruler's deception, point to increasing possibilities of recourse to the military option to force Saddam to give in to international will. [passage omitted]

Given the current atmosphere fraught with clouds of war, realizing the extent of the perils that might ensue, and proceeding from its pan-Arab responsibility toward the Arab nation, Egypt has continued since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on all Arab and international levels to try to find a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis to spare the region the disasters of a devastating war and save the Iraqi people from destruction.

As Egypt realizes that the chance now available to Saddam might be his last, it is intensifying diplomatic efforts among its Arab brothers to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully. Thus, President Husni Mubarak's current visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Syria assume unusual importance, because it comes at a time when the situation in the Gulf has become serious, threatening the collective Arab security. This requires swift consultations and moves to prevent a premature explosion of the situation. The Gulf crisis was the central issue of President Mubarak's talks with brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi yesterday, and of his talks with Syrian President al-Asad in Damascus today. Since these three countries' views are identical on the need for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and a peaceful settlement to the Gulf crisis, we expect that Mubarak's talks in Surt and Damascus will produce positive results and that the three countries will emerge with a unified position that may contribute to bolstering the current Arab and international efforts in not missing the last chance for peace.

What makes the current summit talks between the three leaders more important is that they come a few days before President Mubarak's meeting with U.S. President George Bush. During that meeting, the talks will naturally focus on the Gulf crisis. Talk about peace is one thing, and action to achieve it is another. Peace must be based on justice and international legitimacy. This has been Egypt's firm line for years in its moves in the international political theater. As President Mubarak declared, Egypt is concerned about the need for a

peaceful settlement to the Gulf problem based on immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government. Without this, there will be no peace in the Gulf. Does Saddam Husayn understand this, and will he make a courageous decision to withdraw from Kuwait to prove even once that he is indeed concerned about the Iraqi people and all peoples of the Arab nation and their fateful issues, as he has often claimed?

Commentary Views Ways To Influence Iraqi Stance

NC1411160690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Commentary by Ibrahim Wahbi: "A War Decision Will Expedite a Peace Decision"]

[Excerpts] The U.S. Congress is currently debating a decision for war, the appropriate timing, and its short- and long-term repercussions. At the same time, certain countries still entertain the hope that the problem can be resolved peacefully and the decision for war can be postponed. Meanwhile, the Iraqi president watches the situation at the brink of reaching a military decision or reverting to a peaceful solution. [passage omitted]

By examining the changes as the Iraqi position ranged from intransigence to flexibility, we can affirm that the only means of achieving a peaceful solution is the emergence of a decision for war. This is clear from Baghdad's position. The more the signs of war loom, the weaker are Saddam Husayn's statements. The Iraqi ruler's statements immediately after the invasion of Kuwait showed decisive intransigence. After a while, Baghdad was in a position midway between doubt and certainty regarding the seriousness of war. Baghdad then watched the Arab and foreign forces flowing out to defend the borders; the Security Council's endorsing one resolution after another to condemn it, to impose the embargo and blockade, and to tighten the economic sanctions; and the U.S. and British naval forces' searching ships going to or coming from Iraq and Kuwait. Only then did Baghdad begin to hint about the possibility of convening an international conference to discuss the Middle East problems. Baghdad then maintained that the solution should be an Arab one and that the Iraqi ruler was prepared to release the hostages if all the foreign forces withdrew. These statements, though unacceptable, indicated an increasing sense of isolation, but also that Iraq did not want to cede what it had taken by force. These statements also showed that the Iraqi ruler was having second thoughts as the noose tightened around him. The Iraqi ruler then began to invite delegations and to send out his envoys, or envoys from the few countries supporting him, with suggestions about Arab or foreign overtures.

When much talk came up about peaceful moves and solutions and diplomtic initiatives, however, and when delegations traveled to Baghdad requesting the release of hostages, the Iraqi president reverted to intransigence. He rejected the Arab summit called for by the Moroccan king and repeated his initial conditions rejecting any initiatives that do not keep him in Kuwait. He again used the pretext of the need to solve all the Middle East crises. [passage omitted]

Once again, we maintain that peace will loom on the horizon when Baghdad realizes that war is an inevitable fact and that everything said about what Washington, Moscow, Paris, London, Beijing, and Bonn would do was only a prelude. All that remains is for the Security Council to give the green light to the possibility of war. It remains for Baghdad to know that it is easy to enter war, but it is very difficult to get out of it.

Israeli Behavior Likened To Saddam Actions

NC1511084790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper describes as impudent and obstinate Israel's announcement of its readiness to allow an envoy of the UN secretary general to visit it provided he does not discuss the situation of the inhabitants in the occupied territories or the Jerusalem massacre committed by the occupation troops, because Israel claims this concerns it alone. The paper adds that Israel has no right to impose conditions or to alter the resolutions issued by the UN Security Council in the name of the international community.

In its commentary published today, AL-AKHBAR notes that the obstinacy of the Tel Aviv government, the way it acts as if it were the owner of the occupied territories, and its refusal to permit the protection of the Palestinians against whom it is practicing all acts of repression and brutality put it in the same line as the ruler of Iraq, who also refuses to comply with the rules of international law and ethics. This, the paper adds, calls for decisiveness in standing up to them.

The paper notes that Israel seeks to turn its occupation of what it calls its security belt in southern Lebanon into a fait accompli, claiming that it has a right to remain in Lebanese territory as if this territory had no owner. The paper adds that no law in the world allows one country to seize part of the territory of an independent country and a UN member state. The paper concludes by saying that to remain silent over the violations committed by Israel and its practices that make it think it is a state above international law, will create a serious precedent in relations between states.

Gulf States Given Priority in Arms Deliveries

PM0911155790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Nov 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Priority for Gulf States in Supply of Egyptian Arms and Ammunition"]

[Text] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from Cairo sources that all arms, military equipment, and ammunition orders submitted by the Arab Gulf states to the Arab Industrialization Organization should be immediately met. President Mubarak, the sources said, had assured the leaders of the Gulf states that he recently visited, that Egypt is ready to meet any orders for arms produced by Egypt to boost the military capabilities of these states to deter any possible threats. They added that the Egypt-Gulf talks resulted in agreement to give priority to the procurement of arms and military equipment produced solely by Egypt or jointly with some Western states in accordance with contracts concluded between the Arab Industrialization Organization and those states. That will enable the Gulf states to do away with the restrictions and preconditions which some arms exporters are currently trying to impose because of the Gulf crisis.

Meanwhile, talks are currently under way between Egypt and Libya on a request by Libya indicating interest in benefiting from Egyptian expertise in the manufacture of arms, military equipment, and ammunition, and in concluding contracts between the Libyan Military Industries Organization and the Arab Industrialization Organization.

President Mubarak recently met with Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-'Urabi, chairman of the Arab Industrialization Organization. They discussed recent activities of the organization and the orders submitted by some Arab states for Egyptian arms. They also discussed Iraq's accumulated debts to the organization resulting from its purchase of Egyptian arms and ammunition during the war with Iran.

Meeting To Reschedule Debts To Open 15 Nov

NC1511065790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 15 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR reports that meetings for discussing ways to ease the burdens of Egyptian debts will begin at the Paris Club in the French capital today. The meetings will be chaired by Club President (Jean Louis) and will be attended by representatives of 24 countries in addition to the Egyptian delegation, which is cochaired by Central Bank Governor Dr. Salah Hamid and Cabinet Affairs Minister Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd.

The paper points out that the conferees will discuss Egypt's demands to outline a comprehensive plan for easing the debts and rescheduling some of them.

Increase in U.S. Assistance for Power Plants

NC1111071590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 11 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AHRAM reports that Egypt and the U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID] yesterday signed an agreement by which the grant extended by the United States to renovate the Aswan High Dam's power plant will be increased from $100 to $140 million. USAID also agreed to increase the grant financing the construction of a power plant in al-Kuraymat from $100 to $300 million.

Libya

Egypt's Mubarak Concludes Visit, Departs

LD1411114190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Gulf of Sidra, 14 Nov (JANA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of Egypt and members of his delegation left the Gulf of Sidra airport this morning at the end of his one-day visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

President Mubarak was given an official send off. Leader of the revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi headed those at hand to bid him farewell. Also present was Staff Major 'Abdallah Ahmad, the secretary of the General People's Committee, the secretary and members of the Popular Committee of Surt, and a number of senior armed forces officers.

After shaking his hands with those who came to see him off at the airport, President Mubarak, accompanied by the leader of the revolution proceeded to the platform of honor where he listened to the Libyan and Egyptian national anthems.

Before entering the plane, President Mubarak had a warm fraternal embrace with the leader of the revolution, reflecting the fraternal relations which bind members of the one nation together.

Official Holds Talks With Italian Envoy

Discusses Exiled Nationals

LD1311214290 Tripoli JANA in English 1812 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, November 13, JANA—The assistant secretary at the secretariat of the General People's Congress held a meeting this morning with the Italian ambassador to Great Jamahiriya.

During the meeting, which was held in Tripoli on a request from the Italian ambassador, they reviewed the bilateral relations between Great Jamahiriya and Italy.

During the meeting the assistant secretary confirmed to the Italian ambassador the right of the Libyan Arab people in compensation for the period of Italian occupation of Libya and its right to know the fate of thousands of Libyans whom Italy had sent to exile to Italian islands. He pointed out that the Libyan Arab people cannot forget the past and ignore it or to give up its right in compensation.

He explained that that was expressed through the resolutions taken by the people's congresses - the owners of authority and decision in Great Jamahiriya.

The meeting was attended by an envoy from the European administration at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.

Meets PRC, Yemen Ambassadors

LD1311213290 Tripoli JANA in English
1800 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al Harth [November] 13, Jamahiriyah News Agency—The assistant secretariat at the secretariat of the General People's Congress [GPC] met this morning at the People's Hall in Tripoli the Chinese ambassador to Great Jamahiriyah on his request with an envoy of the Asian administration at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation attending.

During the meeting they reviewed the bilateral relations between the two friendly people's of Great Jamahiriyah and the People's Republic of China and the current international developments and events in the Arab region—the developments and the build up of NATO forces in the Arab gulf region.

The assistant secretary also held a meeting at noon today in the People's Hall in Tripoli with 'Abdallah Ahmad al-Awd the ambassador of the Republic of Yemen to Great Jamahiriyah.

During the meeting they reviewed the relations of brotherhood existing between the two brotherly peoples of Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Yemen and matters of mutual interest.

Two British MP's Arrive in Tripoli 14 Nov

LD1411083690 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
0700 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Nov (JANA)—Conservative MP [Member of Parliament] Michael Marshall and Labour MP Martin Redmond arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Morocco

Ramadan Says Iraq Supports 'Serious Dialogue'

JN1311192190 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1825 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat, 3 Nov (INA)—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister, arrived here this afternoon.

In a statement to INA, Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan said he brought a message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco dealing with the current sensitive situation in the Arab nation and the need for serious, joint Arab action to realize the ambitions of the Arab masses and liberate the Arab lands of all forms of occupation, control, imperialism, and Zionism.

Mr. Ramadan added: Iraq supports the principle of organized and serious dialogue to discuss all the problems of the Arab nation and the retention of its rights to its land and resources, so that a real and comprehensive peace can reign according to the principles presented in President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August, since this represents the objective, just basis for establishing a comprehensive peace in the region.

Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, affirmed that Iraq is offering efforts, initiatives, and measures and is cooperating with other sides in all efforts to distance war out of its concern for establishing peace. Receiving Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan upon arrival was Moroccan Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki, a number of Moroccan officials, and the Iraqi ambassador to the Kingdom of Morocco.

Concludes Visit

LD1411110990 Rabat MAP in English
1024 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat. 14 Nov. (MAP)—Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, first deputy prime minister and special envoy of President Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Hassan II, left Rabat this morning for his country at the end of a brief visit to Morocco during which he was received by the Moroccan monarch.

Soviet Envoy Discusses Purpose of Visit

LD1411183690 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] In line with the positive official reactions generated by His Majesty King Hassan II, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy has said that the Arab states as a whole can play an important role in settling the Gulf crisis.

In a press statement to the NOVOSTI office in Rabat, Petrovskiy said that the Soviet leadership and President Gorbachev are making every effort to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. He said that the present circumstances require greater efforts on the part of everyone.

The Soviet official, who is in Morocco for a working visit of several days in the first stage of a tour comprising the Arab Maghreb region, said that the purposes of the tour are to obtain clarifications concerning the stances of the Arab Maghreb countries, especially folowing His Majesty King Hassan's call for the convening of an extraordinary Arab summit; and to look into the possibility of giving impetus to an Arab initiative for a settlement.

Tourism Agreement With Syria Signed

JN1011182390 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1643 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Rabat, 10 Nov (SANA)—Syria and Morocco have signed an agreement to strengthen cooperation in the tourism sector between the two countries.

The agreement was signed for Syria by Tourism Minister 'Adnan Quli and Morocco by Moroccan Tourism Minister Abdallah Kadiri upon conclusion of the meetings of the second round of the Joint Moroccan-Syrian Committee for Tourism, which concluded here yesterday.

The agreement stipulates decreasing air and sea fares between Syria and Morocco, encouraging national travel agencies to set up ties and travel exchange programs, and providing facilities in this field. The agreement also included organizing a Syrian tourism week in Morocco during the second half of the coming year and a Moroccan tourism week in Damascus during the first half of the same year.

Sudan

INA Claims Saudi Pilot Defects to Sudan

JN1411191790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1902 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Nov (INA)—The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned from informed sources that an F-15 Saudi fighter plane has landed in Sudanese territory and that its pilot sought political asylum in Sudan.

The agency also learned that Turki Bin-Faysal, the intelligence chief in the regime of the betrayer of the two holy mosques, made an unannounced visit to Sudan and held talks with Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], and Colonel Bakri Hassan Salih, NSRCC member, and pressed them to hand over the pilot.

The agency sources added that Sudan refused to hand over the defecting Saudi pilot, explaining to Turki that this contravenes Sudanese and Arab traditions and that the Saudi pilot was granted political asylum in Sudan. The sources went on to say that Turki was in a pitiable state of horror and collapse.

Rebels Condemn Government 'Air Raids' on Torit

EA1411205490 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] The Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLM/SPLA] official spokesman has informed Radio SPLA that within the last two days, the National Islamic Front junta of 'Umar al-Bashir has subjected relief centers in the south to air raids in accordance with its declared policy of terrorizing and chasing relief workers from the south. The raids included one on Torit, where a foreign aircraft dropped 12 bombs at 0750 on 13 November.

The spokesman said that while 'Umar al-Bashir talks about peace, a cease-fire, and vaccinating children, he bombed the same children he says he wants to vaccinate. Three children, aged five, six, and 12, died in the raid on Torit yesterday.

The official spokesman quoted SPLA sources close to the junta in Khartoum as saying the raids on relief centers had been timed to coincide with the visit of Herman Cohen, assistant secretary of state for African Affairs, to Addis Ababa. It is worth mentioning that 'Umar al-Bashir bombed Torit last May while Dr. John Garang de Mabior was meeting with Herman Cohen in Nairobi.

The SPLM/SPLA official spokesman has condemned 'Umar al-Bashir's junta for escalating the war rather than working for peace in the country. Such behavior indicated that whenever 'Umar al-Bashir talked about peace, he was thinking of war. This has been confirmed by the bombing of Torit and other relief centers when 'Umar al-Bashir himself was shouting about peace and asking prominent southern Sudanese personalities to go to the SPLM/SPLA to discuss peace issues. The official spokesman warned that the SPLA was capable of reaching any area in Sudan, including Khartoum, and 'Umar al-Bashir would subsequently be held responsible for escalating and prolonging the war and eliminating chances for peace because bombing Torit could not be justified.

Eight Killed in Clashes With Security Forces

NC1411211790 Paris AFP in English 2059 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Cairo, Nov 14 (AFP)—Eight people have been killed and 45 injured in clashes between demonstrators and security forces in several towns in Sudan, Sudanese opposition sources said here Wednesday. The motive for the demonstrations was not specified. Protests notably took place in Madani and Kassala in Kordofan province, according to the sources.

The situation in Khartoum was also said to be "extremely tense" due to political agitation, with the police and army out in force on the streets. In addition, more than 200 lecturers from the University of Khartoum have been sacked by the government, the opposition sources said. They said that a rail strike last week was accompanied by arson and other acts of sabotage which paralyzed the country's entire railroad system for five days.

Tehran Radio Reports Failed Coup Attempt

NC1411183490 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Sudanese opposition sources said today that a coup attempt against the Sudanese military government

has been thwarted. The sources added that the government arrested a large number of the coupists. REUTER and the United Arab Emirates newspapers AL-KHALIJ and AL-FAJR cited these sources as saying the coup attempt occurred a few days ago. It is the fourth unsuccessful coup attempt against the 16-month-old government of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. The sources, who declined to be identified, reported that a number of former Sudanese ministers have been arrested in the wake of a wave of labor strikes, particularly strikes by railway workers.

Government Reports Increased Sorghum Production

EA1411202290 Khartoum SUNA in English
1029 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Khartoum, 13 November (SUNA)—The reports coming from the prod ction areas showed that the production of the dhurrah [sorghum] types cultivated early this year is exceeding the average of last year's production, said under secretary of the Commerce Ministry, al-Kindi Yusuf. The under secretary, in press statements yesterday, said the dhurrah production in the irrigated areas has reached eight sacks per one acre. He explained that the areas cultivated by dhurrah [as received] in the irrigated areas in the Central Region have gone beyond 700,000 acres and are expected to yield more than 1,300,000 tonnes in addition to the production of the dhurrah-cultivated areas in the Red Fed [as received] and mechanized sectors.

He said the reports further notified that the measures taken on the national level in the production sector will completely redress the food gap. The measures he said include the cultivation of 1,000,000 acres of maize and other types of dhurrah in the irrigated areas and ensuring the flow of wheat contracts and the procedures of wheat and flour export through the commercial investment.

He said the reports coming from the country's various regions affirmed that the flow of dhurrah into the consumption regions was increasing day by day with big drop in dhurrah prices in the crops markets. He indicated that the marketing policy of dhurrah had scored positive effects. He finally called on the crop merchants to exert more efforts to wipe out the phenomenon of dhurrah prices [word indistinct].

Kuwait

'Thousands' Register for Military Training Abroad

PM1411161790 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 13 Nov 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Defense Minister Tells AL-ANBA': We Long For Martyrdom To Liberate Kuwait"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir has emphasized the inevitability of the Kuwaitis' victory and return to their homeland in order to clean it of the aggressive invaders' filth. In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA' he said that Kuwait's sons are determined to win the honor of martyrdom or victory in their just battle for the homeland's sake. And no one can prevent the Kuwaiti people under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, the amir, and Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, from contributing abundantly to the liberation battle, as all have pledged to sacrifice their lives and property for the homeland and its beloved territory.

Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad emphasized that the Kuwaiti combat units stationed on the front along the Saudi border long for the liberation battle, and so do the brothers and friends contributing to maintaining their security in the area with a view to supporting the truth, expelling the treacherous invaders, and correcting a great mistake committed against humanity and Arab and Islamic society as a result of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

Thousands of young Kuwaitis have responded to the call of duty and rushed to register their names, at the recruitment centers opened by the Defense Ministry in some Gulf and Arab capitals, in order to be trained in the use of arms and granted the honor of participating in liberating the beloved homeland from the invaders' filth.

As Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad; Major General Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah, Army deputy chief of staff; and Hamud al-'Utaybi, acting Defense Ministry undersecretary, attended a ceremony in Abu Dhabi the day before yesterday day marking the graduation of the first group of volunteers from among around 5,000 young men, the Ministry was starting to train new groups of young Kuwaitis. [passage omitted]

Resistance Group Eliminates Ba'th Leaders' 'Den'

PM1411111090 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 11 Nov 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "A 25 February Group Cell Attacks Ba'th Leaders' Den in al-Basrah and Kills Them"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Excerpt] The 25 February Group belonging to the Kuwaiti national resistance has announced that it attacked a den belonging to the leaders of the Saddamite party in al-Basrah Governorate in southern Iraq, liquidating the regime's agents and seizing documents, minutes of a meeting, and other important papers the participants had on them.

In a statement distributed yesterday, the group pointed out that it is one of the Kuwaiti national resistance cells which emerged after the usurpation of the homeland and that its members have pledged to God, the homeland, and the amir that they will be a fire against Saddam and his clique.

It said: We, who believe in armed struggle as a means of liberating our territory from the invaders' filth; we, who pledge to the free people of Iraq and the honorable people of Baghdad to carry together the ax that will destroy the regime of the tyrannical ruler of Baghdad and his followers, announce that one of our groups last Wednesday evening carried out the fedayeen operation against a den belonging to the Ba'th gang in the city of al-Basrah. The group's heroes kept a close watch on the den and ensured that zero hour coincided with a meeting being held inside the den and attended by some leaders of the gang in southern Iraq. The group's men attacked the participants with machine guns after killing the guards in a battle that lasted a few minutes. Our men were able to liquidate all those who were inside the den at the time of the attack. They also seized the minutes of meetings and important lists of the gang's actions and the names of some of its members and the jobs assigned to them.

The 25 February Group said that its unit which carried out that operation lost two martyrs. [passage omitted]

UK Official Warns of Military Decision 'Soon'

LD1411171590 London KUNA in Arabic 1408 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Dhahran, 14 Nov (KUNA)—The British defense secretary, Tom King, has signaled that the next few weeks will be "the most difficult phase" for the just Kuwaiti cause regarding the opportunities for settlement through a peaceful or military solution.

He told a news conference held at one of the British military posts, 200 km from the Kuwaiti border, today that "if the Iraqi forces are not withdrawn from Kuwait peacefully, the military option will be the solution," according to him.

The British minister said that he would not let his troops' presence in the Gulf region be ineffective, and urged Saddam Husayn to take an early decision to evacuate Kuwait or "bear the consequences of his intransigence."

Using strongly worded threats, King reminded the Iraqi regime that there were 30 countries whose troops were participating [yusharik] in the Gulf region and "the commanders of these troops will not leave them here forever." He said that Saddam Husayn "would be stupid if he thinks we are playing," according to him. The British minister drew the Iraqi regime's attention to the need for the

implementation of the 10 UN Security Council resolutions, and stressed that the resolutions are explicit in their demand for an unconditional and total Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the reinstatement of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government. In this context he pointed to U.S. President George Bush's warnings to Iraq.

Tom King said that he had a meeting yesterday with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and with the Saudi defense minister, Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. He stressed that the message addressed to Saddam Husayn was clear and candid, that if he does not withdraw from Kuwait peacefully, the military option will be the solution. He declined to set a specific date for a military decision [hasm], but he said it "will be soon." He pointed out that the next few weeks would be "the most difficult phase" for the Kuwaiti issue.

The British secretary of state for defense arrived in Riyadh from Abu Dhabi on two-day visit to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia. During his visit he held talks with senior Saudi officials and reviewed the latest developments in the area in the light of the continuing Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait and the options available to implement the UN resolutions on the crisis.

The resolutions affirm the need for Iraqi withdrawal from the State of Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy. King stated recently: The international forces of 20 states deployed in the area did not come to see the sands of the desert but to implement resolutions that were unanimously endorsed by the international community.

At his news conference, the British defense secretary expressed his hope that "the Gulf crisis would be concluded peacefully" and pointed to the UN Security Council resolutions. However, he repeated that "we will not let our forces stay for a long time, and we will give Iraq enough time to withdraw". [words indistinct] saying that "the Iraqi president must understand that our patience will be exhausted and time is passing quickly". [words indistinct] the UN which include the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy to it.

In reply to a question on increasing the British forces in the region, King said that he will study the requirements of the British forces and submit a report to the British government to explain these requirements. He pointed out that Britain was one of the first countries to send troops here, and that it would not hesitate to increase its forces when it feels there is a need for that. [words indistinct]

Paper Calls Peace Efforts 'Time-Wasting Mirage'

PM1411152390 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic
13 Nov 90 p 1

[Editorial: "War...Road to Peace"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] No one in the entire world—except the bloodthirsty tyrant of Baghdad and his followers from among Iraqi hypocrites and Arab dwarfs—abhors peace. Everyone hopes that Iraq will unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait and that legitimacy will be restored to Kuwait without resorting to military confrontation and its consequent destruction and bloodshed. But what can we and the world do when the Iraqi tyrant is insisting on turning a deaf ear to all calls for a peaceful solution? Does resorting to the military option in this case not become an unavoidable and the only option to liberate our homeland, territory, and country?

All indications confirm that those who seek and are wagering on a peaceful solution are following a futile and time-wasting mirage. It is Saddam Husayn who is destroying their renewed hopes. In fact he is impudently obstructing and closing the doors to these hopes in a strange and intransigent way stemming from delusions of power and false self-confidence. And if the knights of the peaceful solution have any doubt about that, let them refer to the statement issued by the dictator of Iraq the day before yesterday.

The monarch of Morocco has made an initiative, calling for an emergency Arab summit that he described as the last chance for peace in the Gulf, as the drums of a destructive war in the region have beaten loudly. King Hassan II made it a condition that the extraordinary summit be convened on the basis of commitment to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. And despite the reservations which can be voiced about the benefit of that summit and the benefit of the so-called Arab solution as a result of the Iraqi ruler's insistence on his intransigent position, the tyrant did not even give even that peace initiative a chance to become a dialogue. He buried it in the early stages, thus totally obstructing any hope for peace.

A few hours after King Hassan's statement, the Iraqi dictator issued a statement including three impossible and intransigent conditions to derail the proposed summit and put the cart before the horse. He insists that the summit discuss all the Middle East problems, first and foremost the Palestinian issue, and that he draw up the agenda by himself, so that the summit would be lost in labyrinths before it is held and then consultations would be held with him over its date and venue to enable him to attend, although everyone knows for certain that he cannot attend even if it is held. He does not leave his fortified secret residence for any other place in Baghdad, so how can he leave Iraq for the summit, when he knows full well that, if he left the throne of power for a single moment, it would collapse?

The Iraqi ruler's problem is that he creates and launches lies and then seems to believe them and act according to them, imagining that the world will believe them.

Patience has run out with regard to the delusions about and the wager on the possibility of Iraq's responding to the international will through peaceful dialogue, now that all the threads of hope have been severed and everyone has ascertained that the dictator is continuing

his oppression and aggression, dictated to him by his power madness. Nothing will wake him up from that sleep except force.

In many cases and in many problems in our contemporary world, force is the only means to achieve security and war is the only means to achieve peace.

Qatar

Canadian National Defense Minister Arrives

On Regional Tour

JN1511094790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, 14 Nov (WAKH)—Canadian National Defense Minister William McKnight arrived in Doha from Jeddah this evening on a two-day visit to Qatar as part of a tour of states in the region.

He was received upon arrival by Qatari Interior Minister Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Colonel Shaykh (?Hamad) Bin-'Abdallah Al Thani, and senior Armed Forces officers.

Discusses Crisis With Amir

JN1511095190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0847 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Doha, 15 Nov (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani received today Canadian National Defense Minister William McKnight.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY reported that talks during the meeting dealt with the current situation in the region and the new developments in the Gulf crisis resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, in addition to means to support and bolster relations of friendship and cooperation between Qatar and Canada and expand their scope.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and Qatari defense minister; Interior Minister Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalifah Al Thani; Air Staff Colonel Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Abdallah Al Thani; and Staff Colonel Ahmad 'Abdallah Sultan al-Kawari, acting commander of the Qatari and Amiri Naval Forces. The Canadian minister arrived here yesterday from Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia

Foreign Minister Demands Iraqi Withdrawal

LD1411190190 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud has sent a message to his brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates. The message was delivered by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal during an audience with Shaykh Zayid today, Wednesday.

The UAE news agency said that the message concerns developments in the area, in the light of the continuing Iraqi occupation of the fraternal state of Kuwait and the new developments in Arab and international attitudes toward the Gulf crisis. The message is within the framework of constant consultations and appraisals between the two leaders.

The meeting was attended by the representative of the ruler in the eastern area of the UAE, Shaykh Tahnun Bin-Muhammad al Nuhayyan, Foreign Ministry undersecretary Shaykh Mamdun Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, and the ambassador of the kingdom to the UAE Muhammad 'Abdallah al-'Itaybi.

In answer to newsmen's questions on the contents of the message which his royal highness the prince conveyed to His Highness Shaykh Zayid, His Royal Highness the foreign minster said: The message concerned constant consultations on all issues.

In answer to a question concerning the call for a summit His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that there has been an Arab summit, which adopted a comprehensive resolution on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In our view, it is necessary that Iraq should announce its agreement concerning the summit resolution and the international resolutions, which all call for the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, the return of legitimacy, and the restoration of the status quo before 2 August. His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal left Abu Dhabi earlier today.

Jordanians Said Participating in 'Looting' Kuwait

JN1411161990 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 12 Nov 90 p 19

[Text] Dhahran—AL-YAWM—A Kuwaiti citizen who left Kuwait last week has said that the curfew hours [in Kuwait] between 2300 until 0700 the next day are the time for looting by Iraqis. It became clear later on that Jordanians are joining in with them. Trucks belonging to the Jordanian Ministry of Trade, which bring fruits and vegetables, return to Jordan carrying looted Kuwaiti goods. Most of these things are Kuwaiti Army equipment, mostly U.S. or French made, which can be used with the Jordanian Army's equipment. The looted equipment includes spare parts. The Iraqis facilitate this for the Jordanians, which can be seen as a bribe for their pro-Iraqi position.

Iraqi intelligence has also provided Jordanians who work with them, mostly members of the Jordanian community who live in Kuwait, with identity cards that prove that they are agents to facilitate their activities. The front of the identity card has a picture of Saddam Husayn on it and the back has the name of the agent.

United Arab Emirates

Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Arrives on Visit

JN1411111890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0610 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Nov (WAKH)—Loncar Budimir, federal secretary for foreign affairs of the SFRY, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Tehran this evening on a one-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] as part of his tour of a number of the region's countries. The SFRY minister will hold talks with UAE officials on developments in the Gulf crisis as well as relations between the two countries.

Received by President Zayid

JN1511092590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1750 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has received a message from Yugoslav President Dr. Borisav Jovic dealing with developments in the situation in the region and the Nonaligned Movement's position on the Gulf crisis. The message was conveyed by Budimir Loncar, Yugoslav Federal secretary for foreign affairs, when he was received by His Highness Shaykh Zayid this evening.

Zayid Stresses Nonaligned Role

JN1511092890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0522 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Nov (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has reaffirmed the importance of the Nonaligned Movement in supporting the causes of peace and justice in the world.

His highness said this evening when he received Budimir Loncar, Yugoslav Federal secretary for foreign affairs, whose country currently chairs the Nonaligned Movement, that this role requires the Movement to be truly nonaligned with injustice and aggression so that its position fits its name.

He added that the countries that align themselves with injustice, greed, and aggression do not deserve to be among the nonaligned nations unless they correct their policy and support the oppressed against the oppressor. Otherwise, their membership should be reviewed so that the movement can maintain its honesty and all members can take pride in it; it can then be an active part of human society.

His highness called on the Nonaligned Movement to take effective and positive action based on international legitimacy regarding the Gulf crisis by supporting justice and right.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan said that everyone demands peace and stability and that the Kuwaiti people, who have been rendered homeless and whose country has been occupied, have the right to be saved and rescued from the Iraqi occupation and should have their full sovereignty restored to them under Kuwait's legitimate government.

His highness pointed out that, despite the fact that the UAE is a small state, it has great ambitions to bolster friendship, cooperation, and solidarity with all peace-loving countries in the world. His highness added that the UAE wants to be friendly to all and that whoever takes one step in its direction, it would take many steps in their direction.

Departs Following Two-Day Visit

JN1511093390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1815 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Nov (WAKH)—Budimir Loncar, Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs, left Abu Dhabi this evening following a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. During the visit, the Yugoslav official conveyed a messgae to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Yugoslav President Dr. Borisav Jovic dealing with current developments in the region.

Yemen

President on Gulf Crisis, Saudi Arabia Dispute

JN1511072690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has stressed that unified Yemen is a concrete example of the Yemenis' firm resolve and enlightened ability to score and maintain a historic victory and take it up to desired objectives and goals. This young state, he added, is the sign of a pan-Arab awakening and a model worthy of emulation embodying the dreams of the Arab masses in a borderless great Arab homeland, a unified Arab nation capable of confronting threats from the nation's numerous enemies. This came in an interview with the newspaper AL-MUJAHID, organ of the Algerian National Liberation Front, and published yesterday.

Regarding our country's position on the Gulf crisis, the brother chairman stressed that Yemen has, from the very beginning, declared its absolute rejection of solutions to Arab disputes through the use of force and has called for an Arab solution to the crisis to ensure there will be no foreign interference in our Arab nation's affairs. He pointed out that some brothers have failed to understand Yemen's position, which proceeds from a sincere desire to achieve the higher pan-Arab interest. Through their media, certain sides have tried to distort and offend Yemen's position and take harsh and unjustifiable measures against Yemen and its people, who suffered much economic loss as a result of the crisis.

On Saudi Arabia's measures against Yemen, the brother chairman stressed that the Yemeni stance has been deliberately distorted and misunderstood although it is a clear, principled, and neutral stance that rejects capitulation and surrender. He said that the measures against the Yemenis in Saudi Arabia and the losses they incurred are linked to reasons unrelated to the Gulf crisis. They are linked to well premeditated intentions and to the historical remnants against Yemen and its people, he explained. The current Yemeni-Saudi differences, he said, are confined to three main issues: the Yemeni-Saudi border, Yemeni unity, and the democratic experiment in Yemen.

Concerning the Palestine question, the brother chairman stressed that it will continue to be the Arabs' central issue and their chief concern. He said that any changes in the positions of some Arab countries toward a solution to this question constitute only a kind of falsehood; they reflect these countries' schizophrenia and disturbed conception of world legitimacy and human justice. He stressed that there will be no lasting and comprehensive peace unless all legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are restored and their independent state is established over their national soil.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

To Discuss Crisis Solution

JN1411142990 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov arrived in Sanaa this morning on a visit to our country within the framework of Soviet efforts to solve the Gulf crisis.

The Soviet envoy said in a statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY—SABA'—that his visit to our country is part of a tour he is making of Arab countries to discuss the situation in the region, especially the situation in the Arabian Gulf.

Receiving the Soviet official were Tariq al-Hakim, deputy minister of culture; [name indistinct], Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs; a presidential protocol representative; and Veniamin Popov, Soviet ambassador in Sanaa.

Delivers Gorbachev Message to Salih

JN1411175090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received today Aleksandr Belonogov, Soviet deputy foreign minister and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's envoy. The latter delivered to the Presidential Council chairman a message from the Soviet leader dealing with the developments in the Arabian Gulf region and the Arab and international efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis, in addition to bilateral relations.

The brother leader said during the meeting that our country, which has exerted great efforts to contain the Gulf crisis within the Arab framework, will continue to pursue all Arab and international efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Arabian Gulf crisis.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary [name indistinct], and Soviet Ambassador to our country Veniamin Popov, in addition to the Soviet envoy's delegation.

U.S. Landing Operation Called 'Provocative Act'

JN1411134590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—A responsible source has vehemently denounced the American announcement that U.S. Marines will carry out a naval landing operation near Iraq's border.

In a statement to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] today, the source said this behavior constitutes an obvious provocative act. In addition to the many other pieces of evidence, it exposes the Americans' hostile intentions against Iraq.

The source said this premeditated provocation comes at a time when U.S. Administration's circles are talking about the likely occurrence of so-called provocative acts by Iraq. Thus, what we said yesterday to the effect that the U.S. Administration and American organs are the ones planning provocative acts in order to mix the cards and delude American public opinion, the U.S. Congress, and the world public opinion in order to pave the way for an aggression against Iraq, is confirmed.

The source stressed that Iraq—which believes in its right, the justice of its cause, and just peace, and which confirmed this belief in real practice—can reply to any aggression against it with all resolve and determination.

'Aziz Says Baker Remarks Bid for World Control

JN1411174990 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1711 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Commenting on the statements made by U.S. Secretary of State Baker in Bermuda yesterday, Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said the following to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY]:

The statement made by Baker confirms again what we said at the outset of the crisis—namely, that the main U.S. objective in the region is to control oil wells and dictate oil policies. Baker, who spoke of his fears regarding a world recession because of Iraq's possession of large oil reserves deliberately and tendentiously conceals a fact that is documented and well-known to all. This fact is that Iraq's oil policies throughout the seventies and eighties have been responsible ones, based on a balance between supply and demand and the need for reasonable prices for producers and consumers alike. These policies have also tried to prevent market fluctuations, whereas the regimes that have received U.S. troops were the parties that tampered with the oil market to serve the rulers' whims and their evil ambitions.

With the passage of time and the appearance of further developments, U.S. officials are revealing more hidden cards concerning their regional and world strategy. The mainstay of this strategy is to control the sources of the world's economic might during the post-cold war era with a view to imposing their political hegemony and securing world domination. It is clear to all that the U.S. Administration has begun to move from a position of alleged defense of the security of some regional states to a position of open offense, which flagrantly contravenes the objectives it declared when its troops began the invasion of the region to deceive others and the U.S. people. The condition Baker set for the Arab summit called for by Morocco confirms that the United States is blatantly interfering in inter-Arab affairs and insisting on fettering the Arab regimes that are following the United States' lead in dealing with Arab issues.

Commentary Says Americans Against Bush on Gulf

LD1111230790 Baghdad International Service in English 2100 GTM 11 Nov 90

[Text] Welcome dear listeners to our special report entitled: The Gulf plight has mobilized the Americans against Bush.

The developments of the Gulf crisis and the social and economic burdens have put the American President Bush in a big dilemma. He tries to convince the Americans, but in vain, that the war against Iraq is for the sake of America. But the demonstrators chanted a slogan saying no blood for oil, and the results of the partial elections of the Senate and House of Respresentatives were an indicator that the electors don't want Bush and his policy.

On the other hand, President Bush is not able anymore to gather his allies to follow his policy in the Gulf as easy as he could at the beginning of the crisis. Under his plight in the Gulf and the economic crisis, the American President doesn't decide whether he will nominate himself again for the next Presidential elections in 1992. He added in a press conference in the White House yesterday that he didn't make a decision in this concern.

The rival Democratic Party leaders declared they prefer themselves to attend the White House and dislodge Bush administration, saying that Bush's policy in the Gulf and the economic crisis are major elements in their campaign to gain more votes of the electors.

In addition to the demonstrations against the military escalation led by Bush, the American forces bother is very obvious, and increases as a result of their presence in the Arab Peninsula. They also protested against some kinds of food that were presented to them. Reuter quoted (?Hall) in Washington yesterday as saying that it's very difficult to transfer fresh food for 250,000 soldiers along 13,000 km distance every day.

Officials, Papers React to Thatcher 13 Nov Speech

Jasim Views 'Hostile Threat'

JN1411121990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—Commenting on Margaret Thatcher's speech to the British House of Commons last night and her hostile threat, Culture and Information

Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has stated the following to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY]:

The statements that Thatcher makes from time to time are a kind of hostile action and blatant intervention in Iraq's domestic affairs. Also, these statements incite and kindle hostility toward Iraq.

The culture and information minister added: Thatcher's beating of the drums of war is part of the severe psychological turmoil she is experiencing in these hard circumstances, preparing to leave the leadership of the Conservative Party. The culture and information minister asserted that the unambiguous and definitive facts we know are that Thatcher's panting after war is motivated by the colonialist mentality that resides within her evil spirit, which is psychologically disturbed. He stressed that this approach will do her no good in improving her popularity or overcoming her ordeal. We also ridicule her statements and take them lightly.

He also said that Iraq has an unwavering view of peace which confirms the link among all the issues of the region, particularly the Palestine question and the tragedy of its unyielding people, which has not moved Thatcher's feelings under any circumstances.

The culture and information minister concluded: Thatcher's statements are intended for local consumption and to cover the crack in her internal, dilapidated front.

World 'Closer' to War

JN1311123290 Baghdad INA in English 1135 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov.13, INA—The BAGHDAD OBSERVER said here today that Thatcher's flagrant call for war, issued with the blessing of the Bush administration, is yet another grave escalation of tension in the Gulf. This comes at a time when parties all over the world are calling for efforts to defuse tension in the region.

Thatcher's latest remarks are bringing the world closer to the brink of an all-out war that would certainly not be a picnic for Thatcher, Bush and all the Arab governments which have deployed troops against Iraq. However, remarks like these have become distinct features of the attitude of Thatcher and Bush, the "bringers of war". The two simply do not know how to talk peace since the word "dialogue" is not in their vocabulary, it said.

The daily added that Britain and the United States have for years now stood in the face of any dialogue that could have solved many present-day problems and eased tension in more than one part of the world. Would it not be hypocritical to talk about detente and dialogue in East-West relations while, at the same time, depriving the Middle East of any chance to solve its problems through dialogue?.

It added that the two Western powers appear to have been carried away by their "victory" over the Eastern bloc. They believe that now that the Soviet influence has receded, they can do anything they like, particularly in the Middle East where they have unleashed their agents, Israelis and some Arab satellite regimes to further undermine Arab power and pillage the region's wealth. It would be something miraculous to see Thatcher and Bush convinced of the indispensability of dialogue to solve Middle East issues, Palestinian problem and the Gulf crisis.

The daily further said that the two Western powers are evidently concerned over the possiblity that both would lose their influence in the region once a peaceful solution to the Mideast issues is attained and once the Arabs resorted their legitimate rights. It is only logical to wonder why should a good-intentioned party have such a concern.

Iraqis, Palestinians and other Arabs wield power that works for peace, not war, and they have welcomed all bids aimed at solving outstanding issues through dialogue. But they are faced with such warmongering attitudes as those shown by Thatcher and Bush, and if they had to fight to regain their rights, so they will do. They will prove to those who have lost their senses that this time it will be an inferno and not a picnic for the invaders, it concluded.

Loss of Popularity Linked to Gulf

JN1411074290 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 11 Nov 90 p 2

["News and Comment" column]

[Text] The successive defeats inflicted on the British Conservative Party under Margaret Thatcher in a string of partial and supplementary elections in a number of British cities show once again the fragile ground the prime minister is treading, and confirm that her domestic and foreign policies have become unacceptable to the majority of Britons. Thatcher's continued intransigence and her application of harsh and clumsy economic policies have seriously jeopardized the British economy and the UK's status within the EEC. Likewise, her incremental taxation policy is strangling millions of poor Britons, increasing the number of the unemployed, and making inflation rates reach record levels. What has worsened Thatcher's domestic predicament is her hostile position on the situation in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula, and her incessant instigation of war against Iraq, as well as her subservience to U.S. policy on the matter.

With the passage of time and the buildup of popular indignation, support for Thatcher will decline to rock bottom and reach the zero level. In such a situation, her only choice will be to pack up her bags and leave her 10 Downing Street office, though she may not like it.

Were the Iron Lady to resist and insist on staying in office the people's rejection of her premiership notwithstanding, her fate will be no better than that of Anthony Eden, the British prime minister during the tripartite aggression against Egypt.

The popular will brought Eden down. A curse followed him until his death. Will the Iron Lady realize this in due course, before she turns into a rag doll kicked out of office? Will she bring herself to understand this?

New Opposition Group Outlines Aims, Appeal

PM1411123190 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 11 Nov 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Opposition Unites Under 'Independent Vanguards:' Only Way To Stop Disastrous Bloodshed Is Immediate, Unconditional Withdrawal"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] The Iraqi opposition fronts in exile have united in recent days. They include large numbers of fraternal Iraq's intellectuals, whom Saddam and his clique's persecution forced to flee their country. The unification movement has been launched under the name "Iraq Independent Vanguards" [al-tala'i' al-mustaqillah al-'Iraqiyah]. The objective is to topple the tyrant and his gang which is dominating and crushing the Iraqi people. The opposition in its new form has issued its first statement. The following are its most important clauses:

Our homeland has for many years been exposed to imminent dangers as a result of the dark nights of dictatorship, which has perpetuated divisions and bleeding wounds in our people's lives, preventing them from exercising their right to determine their options.

The homeland is still suffering from dictatorial, bloody, vicious terror and is exposed to both physical and mental torture in an unrivaled, barbaric way. The suppression of freedom of thought, expression, and action has led to all of the state institutions being domesticated and turned into police institutions subservient to narrow-minded fascist and racist ideas which damage awareness and corrupt consciences.

The Iraqi regime cannot engage in a war to defend the homeland while it continues its war against the Iraqi people—Arabs, Kurds, and the other minorities.

Our people are currently facing the threat of annihilation. Our homeland is threatened by invasion and fragmentation. So our responsibility as a political movement prompts us to condemn the occupation of Kuwait and affirm the fraternal Kuwaiti people's right to choose the regime they want without any interference from any foreign party. At the same time we hold the repressive regime in Iraq responsible for exposing the homeland to danger.

In view of our new political values, we are approaching our people in the homeland and in exile to strengthen their tireless efforts to topple the bloodthirsty regime in Baghdad and establish an independent, democratic alternative that would maintain good-neighborliness with brothers. We also want to secure sound conditions through joint collaboration and efforts in order to spread the spirit of brotherhood and peace among the peoples of the region.

We also condemn the Iraqi regime's invasion of Kuwait and believe that the only way to stop the disastrous bloodshed is the immediate, unconditional withdrawal in order to guarantee the region's safety, security, and development. We reject the regime's attempts to annex Kuwait and impose alternatives fabricated through collusion with its fascist masters.

New Kuwait Governor, Other Officials Sworn In

JN1411131590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf today took the constitutional oath before His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the occasion of his assumption of his new post as minister of state for foreign affairs. 'Abdallah Talab 'Ajzan also took the constitutional oath before His Excellency President Sadam Husayn on the occasion of the assumption of his new post as governor of Al-Basrah Governorate.

'Aziz Salih al-Numan also took the constituional oath before His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the occasion of his assumption of his new post as governor of the Governorate of Kuwait. The swearing in ceremony was attended by 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, minister of local government, and Ahmad Husayn, head of the President's Office.

Iranian Foreign Minister Begins Talks With 'Aziz

JN1411132190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—The first round of talks between Iraq and Iran began at the Foreign Ministry today.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, chaired the meeting for Iraq, while Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati chaired it for Iran. The talks dealt with neighborly bilateral relations based on the joint desire to establish peace, relations of good neighborliness, and positive horizons for future relations.

The talks were attended for Iraq by the senior under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, Iraq's permament representative to the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, the head of the International Conferences and Organizations Department, the head of the Legal Department, the head of the second Political Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Tehran.

The talks were attended for Iran by the Islamic Consultative Council representative, the assistant foreign minister, Iran's permanent representative to the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, the permanent representative to the United Nations, and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Meets With Saddam

JN1411184090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1819 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn this evening received Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the delegation accompanying him.

Velayati conveyed an oral message from His Excellency President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of the Islamic Republic of Iran to his excellency the president. During the meeting, they reviewed the positive moves the two countries have taken along the path of peace, the normalization of ties, and good neighborliness. They also affirmed the need for continuous efforts by officials in the two countries to produce practical steps to consolidate peace and good neighborliness in the service of the interests of the two neighboring peoples.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn asked Velayati to convey his greetings to President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and expressed his wishes of wellbeing and continued progress to the Iranian people.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; senior Foreign Ministry officials; and the Iranian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Visits Imam's Tomb

JN1511112390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Al-Najaf, 15 Nov (INA)—Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the delegation accompanying him, today visited the tomb of Imam 'Ali Bin-Abi-Talib, peace be upon him.

The delegation was received at the entrance of the al-Najaf Governorate by Governor Thabit Fahd 'Ali. While performing the rites of the visit to the sacred tomb, the delegation heard a detailed account by the governor on the care that President Saddam Husayn provides for his forefather [jad] Imam 'Ali's tomb and the developments around the tomb to maintain its ancient religious and historical significance.

Mr. Velayati and his delegation visited the tomb of imam Musa al-Kazim yesterday.

Nicaragua's Ortega Arrives To Discuss Crisis

JN1511093690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—Former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega arrived in Baghdad this afternoon at the head of a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq.

In a statement to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY], he said that he will meet with Iraqi officials during the visit to discuss Gulf developments and how to achieve peace in the Gulf. Ortega was welcomed at the airport by Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim and the Nicaraguan ambassador in Baghdad.

International 'Peace Camp' To Open in Baghdad

JN1011125090 Baghdad INA in English 1215 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 10 INA—An international friendship and peace camp will be set up in Baghdad on Monday, said Mrs Ma'arib Ahmad Kamal, secretary of Iraq's Friendship Society with Peoples of the World.

Mrs. Kamal told (INA) [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] that setting up the camp was an expression by the peoples of the world of solidarity with Iraq.

She said peace delegations from Sweden, Italy, the Soviet Union and Northern American would join the camp, which will remain open for an unspecified period.

Italians to Participate

JN0911213290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1946 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Nov (INA)—The first group of European peace messengers arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit of several days to Iraq.

'Umar Sulayman, head of the group, told INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] that the group, which comprises 12 Italians representing various peace and friendship societies in Italy, will be hosted by the people of Iraq and will set up a camp for peace and solidarity with the Iraqi people in Baghdad next Monday.

They were received at the airport by Iraqi Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization members.

Soviet Delegation Arrives

JN1111214690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Nov (INA)—A delegation representing Soviet peace messengers, led by Mr. Aleksandr Krokov, secretary general of the Soviet Youth Council [name and title as received], arrived in Baghdad this evening on a visit of several days to Iraq.

During the visit, the delegation will take part in the camp of peace and solidarity with the Iraqi people, which will be organized in Baghdad tomorrow, Monday. The delegation will also meet with a number of Iraqi officials and discuss with them the developments in the Arabian Gulf. The delegation was received at the airport by a number of officials of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization.

Meets With Jasim

JN1411170590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim received a delegation of Soviet peace messengers today led by Aleksandr Krokov [name as received], which is visiting Iraq to participate in a peace camp in Baghdad.

During the meeting, Latif Nusayyif Jasim reviewed the facts, ties, and historical evidence that confirm Kuwait to be part of Iraq. He referred to the role of the British colonial rule in implementing a conspiracy to sever this vital part from Iraq.

The culture and information minister said that Iraq's firm position calls for drastic, comprehensive, and just solutions to all regional problems in accordance with uniform criteria, on the basis of justice and equality, and in light of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative.

Jasim said that the Iraqis, along with the honorable Arabs and Muslims in the Arab homeland and the world, are capable of fighting the evil forces represented by the U.S. and Atlantic troop concentrations and of defeating them, depending on the inexhaustible energies of their sons and their faith in the justness of their rights.

The minister praised the Soviet peace messengers' gesture of participating in the peace camp—which is of deep significance in the circumstances facing the Arab region.

Aleksandr Krokov, head of the Soviet peace messengers delegation, expressed his thanks and appreciation for giving the delegation members the opportunity to visit Iraq and to learn for themselves the regional situation, and to contribute to attaining a comprehensive and just peace so as to spare the region and the world the scourge of a devastating war.

Camp Opens 13 Nov

JN1311152190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Excerpt] The world peace and friendship camp, organized by the Iraqi Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization in response to the wishes of the friends of Iraq and peace messengers, was inaugurated in Baghdad yesterday. 'Adnan Dawud Salman, head of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization, delivered a speech at the inauguration ceremony in which he affirmed Iraq's earnest endeavor to consolidate peace among nations and peoples to achieve their hopes and aspirations. He referred to the Iraqis' high preparedness to offer sacrifices in defense of the honor and dignity of Iraq and the Arab nation against any foreign aggression. He said the setting up of this camp in Baghdad is a vivid expression of the solidarity of world peace messengers with the leadership and people of Iraq, which is being subjected to aggressive threats by the U.S. imperialist forces. He added that the camp embodies the endeavors of friends through all available peaceful means to prevent the aggression against Iraq and to expose the evil intentions of the imperialist forces.

In a speech, former Danish Prime Minister Anker Jorgensen appreciated President Saddam Husayn's initiative declared on 12 August 1990. He said we should not forget the Palestinian people and their right to establish their independent state. He indicated that he is against the policy of starvation and economic embargo imposed by the United States on Iraq. He added that the foreign forces in the region should withdraw immediately.

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark urged all those concerned in the world to take part in this grand peace festival to say no to war. He said all peace-loving people in the world should seek dialogue to resolve all the region's problems. He affirmed that peace is indivisible and that there are the Palestinian, Lebanese, and the Golan problems to be taken into consideration.

In a speech, Maria Gracia [name as heard], member of the Italian peace delegation, expressed solidarity with the Iraqi people against the U.S. and Zionist threats. She denounced the economic embargo resolutions imposed on Iraq and called for the withdrawal of foreign armies from the region in order to establish peace.

Antonio Mario Rotundo from Argentina said our meeting is the meeting of faith, hope, and peace. He added that the peace-loving Iraqi people will confront with resolve and steadfastness all foreign fleets and troops deployed in the region. [passage omitted]

Baghdad Planning 'World Peace Festival' in Feb

JN1111133190 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 11, INA—A world peace festival will be held in Baghdad in mid-February. In a statement to INA, head of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society Dr Ibrahim Ahmad al-Nuri said that the festival would be attended by heads of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and figures representing world federations, unions and political parties. Dr al-Nuri pointed out that international delegations that visited Iraq had expressed readiness to offer all forms of medical and humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people.

Speaker Meets Former New Zealand Prime Minister

JN1011182990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih met today with Former New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange. During the meeting, the National Assembly speaker stressed Iraq's desire for peace and stability in the region, and noted the hostile provocations made by the United States and its allies against Iraq and the Arab nation.

He also noted the danger of the U.S. presence in the Arab region to world security and peace and said this presence aims, primarily, at seizing the Arab nation's wealth and resources, controlling the oil wells, and striking at Iraq, which is a source of strength for the Arab nation.

The New Zealand prime minister [as received] stressed the need to resolve all problems facing the region peacefully without force and threats, which will lead to the world's destruction if war erupts. He referred to his country's support for peace and rejection of force and war.

Ramadan Meets Former Danish Prime Minister

JN1011173490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, received today Mr. Anker Jorgensen, former chairman of the Danish Council of Ministers.

The first deputy prime minister said that the current events in the Arabian Gulf, including invasion, occupation, and preparation to carry out aggression against Iraq, have given the world an opportunity to test those who advocate peace and to expose those who call for evil, aggression, and surrender. He pointed out that the arrival of the U.S. Forces in the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] so quickly indicates their intention to carry out aggression, spread hegemony, and close all doors to dialogue and peace.

Ramadan said that Iraq under leader President Saddam Husayn is eager to promote development, progress, and prosperity for the Iraqi people, to continue progress, and to achieve real peace, adding that Iraq rejects any conditions or attempts to control its wealth, policy, and sovereignty and that the Iraqis will cut off the heads of those who plot against their fate, present, future, and honor as well as against the Arabs' rights to their lands and wealth, foremost of which is Palestine.

The former Danish prime minister stressed the need to solve all the problems of the Arab region through peaceful means and without foreign interference or the use of military force. He pointed out that the Palestinian people have the legitimate right to establish their independent state and that the Security Council resolutions on Zionist withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories should be implemented.

He added that efforts to avert the disasters of war are humanity's responsibility and that world public opinion calls for peace and rejects war, which will cause disaster and instability in the region.

Swedish 'Peace' Team Arrives With Medicine

JN1111192790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1842 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Nov (INA)—A delegation of Swedish peace messengers led by Mr. Park Estambik [name as received], secretary general of the Swedish Save the Children of the World Federation, arrived in Baghdad this evening, on a visit of several days to Iraq.

He told INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] the purpose of the visit is to show solidarity with and support for the people of Iraq as they experience difficult circumstances, and to join the Baghdad-based camp of peace and solidarity with the people of Iraq. He has brought along with him a 13-ton consignment of medicines and child vaccines heeding a call by the International Red Cross that these be made available to the children of Iraq. The shipment is to be handed over to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

Second Shipment Delivered

JN1411144090 Baghdad INA in English 1245 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 14, INA—The second consignment of Swiss [as received] medicine on Sunday was handed over by the Swedish Save the Children Federation to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society. The 13-ton consignment, worth three million Swedish crowns (540,000 dollars), includes a wide range of antibiotics and drugs which can be used before and after operations.

Celebrating this humanitarian action, the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and the Swedish Save the Children Federation on Monday signed an agreement of cooperation. Representatives of the Red Cross Societies of Australia, Belgium, Italy and Holland attended the meeting.

More medicine donations from the Swedish, Belgian and Dutch governments will reach Baghdad via Amman next week. The donations come in line with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) agreement to supply Iraqi people with the medicine they need.

Italian Peace Messenger Criticizes UN

JN1011195990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1658 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Nov (INA)—Professor Alberto Labat [name as received], member of the Italian peace messengers delegation, has said that it was a grievous mistake for the UN Security council to pass resolutions against Iraq when other resolutions have never been implemented.

He told the INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] many UN resolutions against Israel remain mere ink on paper. The United Nations has never been in worse shape, said Labat citing its anti-Iraq resolutions passed after American and Atlantic forces had been deployed to the Arab region. He stressed the need for restructuring the United Nations to make it a more democratic body and called for a review of the Security Council's system favoring certain countries that enjoy permanent membership and the veto prerogative.

The Italian peace messenger said he was happy to be visiting Iraq on a mission to ease tension and promote regional and world peace, emphasizing that he will make every effort toward that end.

He regretted the dispatch of Italian forces to the Arab region, noting that this is a breach of the country's Constitution, which like the Japanese and German law bars foreign military involvement except in self-defense.

Labat asked whether Italy was being subjected to any threats, saying there was no earthly reason why his country should be sending forces to a region whose problems could best be worked out peacefully.

Meets Assembly Speaker

JN1111140290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih met today with the Italian peace messengers delegation led by Alberto Labat [name as heard]. The National Assembly speaker highly valued the peace messengers' good efforts, as well as those of all the forces trying to achieve security and peace in the world. He also said that the Iraqi people are honestly trying to entrench the humanitarian bases with all the world's peace-loving nations. Alberto Labat praised Iraq's peace initiatives and its efforts to bring about peace in the region and the world.

Italian Delegations Appeal for Guests' Release

JN1311220190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a letter of thanks and appreciation from the Italian guests present in the Italian Embassy protesting against the Italian Government's aggressive policy, and from the delegation of the committee for the families of Italian guests in Iraq and the peace shield.

The Following is the text of the letter.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.
Your Excellency President Saddam Husayn, God bless you.

Before leaving your country, we want to thank you immensely for your hospitality and the generosity of your people who, with their friendliness, have strengthened the spirit of brotherhood and friendship which guided us to Baghdad, along with the hope of a long-awaited noble deed by you. Mr. President and eternal symbol of the Arabs, we look to your spirit of dignity and pride which has distinguished your stands throughout this crisis. O grandson of al-Mu'tasim, we aspire for your generosity and Arab morality. As mothers and fathers, and on behalf of all the Italian families we appeal to and beg, and plead with you.

Your Excellency the President, what should we tell our wives if we return disappointed, God forbid? And, your nobility will also not allow this to happen. What do we tell our sons and children, they being the ones who saw us off optimistically and await good tidings every night from us here in merciful Baghdad with its honorable people? Do we tell them that our call in Baghdad was met with the same response as our calls against the irresponsible policy of some of our ministers who have become blinded by their self-importance and corrupted by bribes? Do we tell them that there is no hope in requests for mercy and that we live in a world where the strong devour the weak?

What do we tell the committees for solidarity with the children and people of Iraq, which we established before coming here in every town, village, and street, and in the heart of every loyal person who believes in peace and rejects war and starvation?

We do not doubt at all Mr. President, after all we have learned about you—your chivalry, your morality—that you will respond to our pleas and strengthen our morale. The credit will go to you for returning smiles to our children and joy to our hearts by giving our sons the freedom to either travel or stay in your glorious country so that they can participate freely in extending loyal brotherhood to you and to receive from you the honor of participating in building the monument of your glory. We shall all be your aides and brothers in building a glowing peace that cannot wane and a monument of brotherhood and love that shelters us all where our religions and traditions coexist and where you would have the position of both sun and moon.

Long may you live, Mr. President.
(Signed) Aldo Yozinaro [name as received] on behalf of the following:

1. The Italian guests present in the Italian Embassy in protest against the Italian Government's aggressive policy.
2. The delegation of the families of the Italian guests in Iraq.
3. The peace shield delegation.

German Red Cross Praises Treatment of Foreigners

JN0911165690 Baghdad INA in English 1633 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 9, INA—Head of the German Red Cross Society Berd Hoffman highly appreciated President Saddam Husayn decision to allow a number of German nationals, hosted by Iraq to leave for home. In a statement to INA, Mr. Hoffman said the good treatment rendered to the foreign nationals in Iraq refutes the false allegations and claims of the misguiding Western and American propaganda which are after disreputing Iraq. [sentence as received]

He added that the Iraqi authorities provided to the foreign nationals all their needs in addition to telephones to contact their relatives. Mr. Hoffman accompanied the mission of the German Red Cross Society that accompanied the shipment of medicines granted to the Iraqi people.

Australian Red Cross Official Lauds 'Great Care'

JN1411154290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Nov (INA)—Allen Maclain [name as received], secretary general of the Australian Red Cross Society, has expressed the society's thanks and appreciation for the great care the Iraqi people give to their foreign guests.

In a statement to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY], Maclain said that he had ascertained for himself that the Iraqi people's guests are in good health. In this respect, he condemned the hostile and suspect campaigns by U.S. and Western media against Iraq. He added that he would speak in all honesty about the good treatment accorded to foreign guests by the Iraqi people and their leader His Excelllency President Saddam Husayn.

Belgian Red Cross To Provide Blood Bank, Food

JN1411151790 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 14, INA—Mr. Ibrahim Ahmad al-Nuri, chairman of the Iraqi Red Crescent Association, today met Mr. Karl Budenkov [name as received], chairman of the Belgian Red Cross Society.

During the meeting, the two sides signed a joint minutes for cooperation providing for the Belgian side to finance the establishment of a blood bank for the Iraqi Red Crescent and supplying it with the necessary medical equipment and medicines.

The minutes also provided that the Belgian Red Cross supply Iraq with medicines and baby food to support Iraq in facing the economic blockade.

Spanish Official Opposes Foreign Presence

JN1411143990 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 14, INA—Mr. K. M. Mathious [name as received] Member of the European Parliament and vice chairman of the Spanish-Iraqi Friendship Association, now on a visit to Iraq, expressed strong opposition to the foreign military presence in the Gulf region.

In a statement to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] last night, he criticized the Spanish Government's decision to send military force to the Gulf region which he said would negatively affect the future Spanish-Arab relations. He confirmed that majority of the Spanish people reject this decision of the government. Mr. Mathious condemned the unjust economic blockade imposed on Iraq by the United States and said it aims at starving the Iraqis.

Ramadan Receives Cooperation Council Official

JN1311145890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1425 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Nov (INA)—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, last night received Mr. Hisham Hasan Tawfiq, deputy secretary general of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC].

Mr. Ramadan reiterated Iraq's concern for supporting the ACC, so that it will realize its noble pan-Arab goals. The ACC deputy secretary general reviewed the activities of the ACC secretariat, such as following up the implementation of the resolutions and agreements issued by the Council.

Jasim Meets Mauritanian Information Minister

JN1211211590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, this evening received Mauritanian Information Minister Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed and his delegation, who arrived in Baghdad today to attend a meeting of a number of Arab information ministers, which will be held in Baghdad the day after tomorrow, Wednesday.

During the meeting, the situation in the Arabian Gulf and the role of the Arab media in the current phase was discussed. The minister reviewed in detail the course of events before 2 August and the U.S.-Zionist-reactionary conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation. The minister of culture and information presented Kuwait's historical reality as an indivisible part of Iraq and the blatant conspiracy followed by the former rulers of Kuwait and their collusion in this conspiracy through all means to harm Iraq. The minister stressed the ability of Iraq—leadership and people—to bury the conspiracy in its early stages and abort any U.S. and foreign aggression that targets its security and sovereignty.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim stressed that Iraq, under the banner of its inspired leader President Saddam Husayn, is able to defeat the aggressors.

The Mauritanian minister expressed pleasure for visiting Iraq. He stressed Mauritania's solidarity with fraternal Iraq and hailed the Iraqi people's glorious stand in the service of the Arab nation's crucial causes. Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed stressed that fraternal Iraq's scientific and military progress is progress for the entire Arab nation, and a factor of security and reassurance for the nation. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Meets With PLF's Abu-al-'Abbas

JN1211161490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1508 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, today

received Muhammad 'Abbas, alias Abu-al-'Abbas, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF].

The first deputy prime minister stressed the inevitability of the fall of the Zionist human wall set up by the United States against the Palestinian Arab people, pointing out that the current phase will witness many changes because the current age is the age of people's struggling to liberate themselves and regain their usurped rights. Taha Yasin Ramadan said the international legitimacy will prove its credibility if it restores the Palestinian Arab people's rights and forces the Zionists to leave the land of Arab Palestine. He added that if the United States ignites war, it will be digging the graves of its allies—the Zionists; the rulers of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]; and the defeatist, lowly, and cowardly leaders.

Abu-al-'Abbas stressed that Kuwait's return to Iraq is an additional weapon in the hands of the people of Palestine which they can use in their challenge against the Zionist occupiers by activating the revolution of the stones and the Palestinian intifadah, which is getting stronger day by day. He pointed out that Leader President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative has revived the Palestine question and led to increasing the world interest in the problem of the Palestinian people, who were expelled from their territories and homeland with support from the United States and its allies.

Saddam Receives Cable From French Peace Group

JN1011145890 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 10, INA—President Saddam Husayn today received a telegram from the French Committee for Peace in the Middle East expressing high appreciation to Iraq's decision to allow French nationals to leave for home or stay in Iraq.

In its telegram, the committee expressed hope that this Iraqi initiative would be the start for ending the embargo imposed on Iraqi people and embarking on negotiations to find a peaceful and just settlement to the Middle East issues. The committee stressed determination to continue efforts to achieve this goal with the object of strengthening relations between the Iraqi and French peoples.

Ramadan Says Talks With Morocco's Hassan 'Useful'

JN1411193190 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1806 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, envoy of His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member, and first deputy prime minister, returned to Baghdad today following a two-day visit to Morocco.

During the visit, Taha Yasin Ramadan conveyed a message from His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco on Arab developments, the requirements for securing joint Arab action that would satisfy the Arab masses' aspirations and liberate Arab countries from all forms of occupation and imperialist-Zionist domination.

The first deputy prime minister was welcomed at the airport by Planning Minister Samal Majid Faraj, Housing and Construction Minister Tahir Muhammad Hassun, and Foreign Ministry officials.

In a statement to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY], Taha Yasin Ramadan said that he conveyed during the visit a message from His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn to King Hassan II containing his excellency the president's greetings to his majesty the Moroccan monarch and dealing with friendly ties, Iraq's position on events in the Arabian Gulf, and King Hassan II's call for an extraordinary Arab summit.

The first deputy prime minister added: We informed His Majesty King Hassan II of the gravely serious Arab situation, which has reached rock bottom because of the flagrant interference in inter-Arab affairs, the occupation of their lands by troop concentrations, naval and air fleets, and the contempt demonstrated by the U.S. Administration in its efforts to launch an aggression against the Arabs—primarily Iraq, and using Arab lands to dominate their resources, free will, sovereignty, and destiny.

The RCC member said he told His Majesty King Hassan II of Iraq's eagerness and serious endeavors to establish a genuine and comprehensive dialogue in the region—eagerness and serious endeavors that have been practically displayed in its various and multifaceted peace measures and overtures, primarily His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August and his readiness for a comprehensive and thorough dialogue on all regional problems at a single negotiating table and with sincere and genuine intentions to bring about a real and just peace.

The first deputy prime minister added that he informed His Majesty King Hassan II of Iraq's position on his majesty's call for an extraordinary Arab summit. He went on to say that he informed the Moroccan monarch that the proper psychological atmosphere as well as mature ideas must be prepared for any Arab summit, as these two components would help render such a summit a success. Similarly, this would help in the adoption of joint effective Arab resolutions on all Arab issues. Furthermore, it would enable the Arab leaders to adopt joint positions before the world. This would show that these leaders were ready to defend these positions, which must realize the aspirations of the Arab masses, who are ready to fight to vindicate freedom, sovereignty, and dignity, Ramadan said.

The first deputy prime minister added: His Majesty King Hassan II asked me to convey his greetings to His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn and his pride in the developed ties between the two fraternal states. He reaffirmed the importance of making continuous efforts to expand and promote them. His Majesty

King Hassan II noted the importance of consultations and prior preparations for any Arab summit so that Arab summits can achieve their pan-Arab objectives.

Concluding his statement, Taha Yasin Ramadan said: I felt a serious desire on the part of His Majesty King Hassan II to produce resolutions that would achieve peace in the region. I also felt an understanding of the importance of the Arabs in playing their roles and announcing a joint position on Arab issues and of the need to spare the region all forms of war and domination.

The RCC member and first deputy prime minister described his talks with His Majesty King Hassan II as important and useful. He added that these talks laid sound foundations for joint Arab action. During his visit, the first deputy prime minister was accompanied by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sa'd al-Faysal.

Swiss Economy Department Bans Sending Food

JN1011150190 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Geneva, Nov 10, INA—A member of the Federal Swiss Assembly said that his country was seizing a quantity of foodstuffs collected for the Iraqi children after being exposed to U.S. pressures.

INA correspondent in Geneva said that the Swiss MP, from the socialist party confirmed, in a statement issued by JOURNAL DE GENEVA daily, that the Swiss Chief Department of Economy prevented the sending of these materials to Iraq and did not give further details. The correspondet added that four members of the Federal Assembly would pay a visit to Iraq next Wednesday.

Swiss Society Sends Second Shipment of Medicine

JN1211165290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 12 Nov (INA)—Iraq has received the second shipment of medicine donated by the Swiss Save the Children Fund to help face the blockade imposed on Iraq. The 13 tonnes of medicines were presented by Mrs. Carnila Drysilus, assistant secretary general of the Swiss fund, to Dr. Ibrahim Ahmad al-Nuri, president of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society.

In a related development, the president of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and the assistant secretary general of the Swiss fund have signed a bilateral agreement to bolster and improve cooperation between the two organizations. The agreement was signed in a special ceremony attended by Dr. Ibrahim Ahmad al-Nuri, Mrs. Carnila Drysilus, and delegations from the Australian, Belgian, Netherlands, and Italian Red Cross societies. In a speech delivered during the ceremony, the president of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society praised the support given to the [Iraqi] society by the Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies in the world in order to provide medicines to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Price of Rice Bought From Farmers Raised

JN1111193690 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] In implementation of the order of leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, the Trade Ministry has decided to increase the prices of the rice crop bought from farmers as follows:

Al-'Anbar: For 1,000 dinars instead of 800 dinars.
Al-Mishkhadh: For 700 dinars instead of 400 dinars.
Mishkazah 'Aqrah: For 100 dinars.

The INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY] has learned that the increase mentioned above applies to all quantities which have been received since the beginning of this season's marketing. The difference between the new and old prices will be paid to farmers for the quantities that were received from them in accordance with usual procedures.

Shamir Says Jordan Border 'Serious' Problem

TA1511123090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Excerpt] Our correspondent in the north Qobi Mandel reports that speaking at a news conference held during a tour of Qiryat Yam, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the heating up of the Jordanian border constitutes a serious security problem which Israel has to deal with.

[Begin Shamir recording] There is a very serious security problem regarding the border with Jordan which must be dealt with. First of all, security along it must be enhanced and the border must be watched more closely. I hope Jordan's leaders realize that the incidents that have been occurring are harmful and damaging to Jordan itself and will see to it that the border goes back to being as quiet as it used to be. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1105 GMT on 15 November also reports on Shamir's news conference, adding the following recorded remarks by the prime minister on the state of the peace process in view of the Gulf crisis: "In these days, at a time of crisis in the Gulf, with Saddam Husayn appearing on television and speaking on the radio claiming he will destroy half the State of Israel and that he will send poisonous gases and bombs, all the Arabs—or almost all—immediately became his supporters and admirers. They see him as their messiah. He will redeem them. He will solve their problem. He will eliminate the State of Israel and drive out the Jews. Therefore, I cannot understand the question of how peace is possible at a time of crisis in the Gulf, of all times, when one needs two partners for peace. You certainly know what the tango is; everyone knows it takes two to tango." Concluding his remarks, Shamir adds: "I say we need not be worried; we should be concerned, but not worried."]

Arens on U.S. Cooperation, Gulf Crisis

TA1411203990 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1940 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by moderator Yoram Ronen, military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky, and Beni Liss on the weekly "Moqed" program—live]

[Text] [Ronen] Terrorists from Jordanian territory have attacked IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. The latest soldier to be attacked was buried yesterday; the administrative detention of two of the Palestinian leaders in the territories; the demand by the defense establishment for 1.5 billion shekels more in the upcoming budget. These are some of the issues we will speak about with Defense Minister Moshe Arens. Good evening, Minister.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Ronen] We will naturally start with the infiltration into the IDF post in the Jordan Rift Valley. Today there is talk that what happened was an unnecessary foul-up. There must have been a debriefing. What are the conclusions?

[Arens] I have not yet received the findings of a report I ordered. We must draw conclusions from all security events, to uncover mistakes, if there were any. I believe that by tomorrow we will know exactly what the outcome of the investigation is.

[Ronen] You have surely heard what everybody is talking about. Are you satisfied with what happened?

[Arens] First, nobody in Israel is happy with what happened there. The late Pinhas Levi was killed there; therefore, we cannot be satisfied. I was there the following morning. There is probably room for improvement, but I believe that nothing further should be said at this stage.

[Ronen] Operational improvements?

[Arens] Improvements in all fields.

[Shlonsky] There has been talk for a long time that King Husayn's regime is losing control. There have been warning signs for over a month. It is well known that there is a problem with the training level of our soldiers stationed in the border posts. Nevertheless, this case was graver because a military post was infiltrated. It did not have a fence separating it from the Jordan River, and the soldiers there were lesser trained. Do you not think that was the main problem?

[Arens] As I said, the matter is now being investigated. I believe it would not be wise to provide explanations before receiving the results of the investigation. It is true that IDF soldiers in the reserves have a heavy burden. The post was manned by reserve soldiers, and that is not easy. We are currently properly deployed and prepared for Baghdad's threats, for protecting the north of the country against terrorism from southern Lebanon, and for confronting the intifadah. We must also be prepared along the Jordanian border.

[Ronen] Is it proper that most of the better troops in the reserves are dealing with the intifadah, and therefore there are problems in bringing them to the borders, such as the heated border with Jordan?

[Arens] First of all, the force dealing with the intifadah is not made up only of soldiers in the reserves; the regular army is also involved. We will certainly size up the situation in order to deploy our forces properly with respect to Jordan. The main problem at this moment—the situation could change—derives from the atmosphere among the Jordanian population, which has been heated up by those fanatical Muslims who get up in the morning after dreaming that they have to cross the Jordan River and take revenge by trying to murder a Jew. I believe that Husayn is making efforts to prevent infiltrations from across the river, but the high number of incidents derives largely from the relatively large number who want to cross the river. Israeli youths also

crossed the Jordan River in the other direction, which shows that it is not easy to close the border hermetically. In the events that took place, the terrorist infiltrators did not reach the civilian population. We prevented that. That does not mean, however, that we do not have to investigate ourselves to make sure that next time there will be better results.

[Shlonsky] Will you improve the lineup of the forces along the border?

[Arens] As I have already said, we will have to size up the situation of the deployment of forces, but as I also said, the demand for good troops is great on all the fronts.

[Liss] Minister, the warning signs about the Jordanian situation have been around for some time, and King Husayn has received signals and warnings from us many times. Perhaps we should consider [Tehiya Knesset Member] Ge'ula Kohen's proposal to set up a security zone inside Jordan?

[Arens] I am convinced that the implementation of that proposal would not improve our security situation.

[Shlonsky] What about activity on the other side? Not exactly a security zone, but activity on the other side of the Jordan River? There was such a thing some 20 years ago when the border was more heated. Not a permanent presence, but intermittent actions when the situation calls for it?

[Arens] In my view, at least at this moment, there is no need for that. The infiltrations often came from areas relatively far from the river, and any action by us on the other side would not have prevented those infiltrations.

[Ronen] Sir, you start from the assumption that King Husayn is losing control in Jordan.

[Arens] I did not say that.

[Ronen] Do you not believe that to be the case? Do you think King Husayn is in charge of the situation?

[Arens] First, I said that I did not say that. It is true that he has problems in taking control of the situation. By the way, that is not the first time that has happened. I do not know if it will be the last time; I suppose it will not be. I believe those who say that anything that would replace Husayn would be worse for us. We therefore wish him success in his fight for his rule in Jordan.

[Ronen] Do you agree with the chief of staff's remarks that we should help Husayn, since otherwise he will be replaced by Saddam Husayn?

[Arens] The level of aid we can extend to him is very limited.

[Ronen] To whom, King Husayn?

[Arens] Yes.

[Liss] We did it in the past. Perhaps the time has come to help him now?

[Arens] As I said, in the present circumstances the level of aid we can give is very limited, and it is very possible that it could be counterproductive, and in fact achieve the opposite of what we want.

[Shlonsky] Yesterday you announced the administrative detention of three main activists in the intifadah...

[Arens, interrupting] Two—Radwan Abu-'Ayyash and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad—are central figures.

[Shlonsky] The third is Ahmad al-Yazchi from Gaza. The question is: If they—or at least two of them—are leaders of the intifadah, why wait so long, and if there is information against them, why administrative detention and not detention through normal legal procedures?

[Arens] First, I believe it is clear that Radwan Abu-'Ayyash and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad are at the top of the pyramid of what is called the intifadah, and they also present themselves as such. As far as we know, they belong to what is called the Unified National Command of the Uprising.

[Liss] Is that a new phenomenon, or has it been known for the past three years?

[Arens] I cannot tell you whether it has been known for three years, since I have not been dealing with it for three years. I have been defense minister for four and a half months. Since I took over the job, the matter has been known. We believe that administrative detention for those people will save us violence, and perhaps fatalities. Administrative detention is a preemptive move, in order to prevent them from carrying out the type of action they have been responsible for, which is hostile to the State of Israel.

[Shlonsky] There are claims in Israel, and we also heard it during today's news conference by Palestinian leaders, that the move is an attempt to please certain circles in Israel, and that it is in fact a political action and not based on facts.

[Arens] You will hear political arguments from politicians, but the intifadah is too serious an issue to be dealt with by trying to please this or that group, whether on the left or the right. We must take the right steps, and I am convinced that the administrative detention of the two is correct.

[Liss] Mr. Minister, Shaykh Yasin has been detained for several months in Gaza. Would you say that following his arrest violence has declined in Gaza? Faysal al-Husayni was under detention; was violence reduced then?

[Arens] I believe that neither I nor anybody else can prove it mathematically, because nobody can tell you what would have happened had the detentions not been implemented. I believe, however, that common sense

tells us that people linked to violence, those who inspire violence, those who order violent actions, should be in detention and not free.

[Ronen] What I understand from your remarks is that we should detain more and more leaders.

[Arens] I believe it is obvious that these are not the final arrests.

[Shlonsky] Will none of them be put on trial? Is that why they were put under administrative detention?

[Arens] I cannot promise anything. We have judicial processes, and to the extent that there is proof that can be brought to court about actions in the past, I believe that they will be put on trial. As I said before, it is not the first time that we have implemented administrative detentions. It is first and foremost a measure to prevent actions that would otherwise take place.

[Shlonsky] What you are saying is that at this moment there is no substantiated evidence to permit them to be put on trial and that is why that step was taken.

[Arens] As far as I know there is no evidence that can be presented in a courtroom. We have a problem with sources; everybody understands that. There are limits to the things we can do. I believe it is important to stress that, because I hear things that superficially sound correct: If a person committed a crime, why not put him on trial? I believe all Israelis understand that we are dealing with violent activity, hostile activity against the State of Israel, and even with war. A war cannot be conducted only through regular judicial means.

[Liss] Mr. Minister, we do not talk with Palestinian leaders outside Israel; their leaders in the territories, we either deport them or place them under administrative detention. Well then, whom do we talk to?

Let me rephrase the question: Do you have a list of residents of the territories whom you would be willing to accept as leaders, with whom you would be prepared to enter a dialogue?

[Arens] First of all, I would like to correct your statement. We talk with the leaders of Egypt; we made peace with them and we talk to them. With the leaders of the Arab countries we are prepared to talk, but the problem is that they do not want to speak to us. Saddam Husayn has no interest whatsoever in talking to us, and threatens to wage war against us.

[Ronen] What about the leaders of the territories?

[Arens] As for the territories, Israel made what I think is a far-reaching proposal and a breakthrough; namely, to hold elections and to negotiate with anybody elected in those elections. I have had numerous talks with Palestinians. Since entering office four and a half months ago, I believe I have conferred with hundreds of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip as well as from Judaea and Samaria.

[Liss] Following your impressions, could you point to some leaders with whom you could already enter a dialogue?

[Arens] We live in a world that is slightly different from the Arab world. We are used to democratic processes, and when we talk about leadership we mean people who have been elected, who are representative, and who have received a mandate from their constituents.

[Ronen] Minister Arens, allow me to pursue the same line of questioning. Upon entering office you said you considered holding elections in the territories—you may have put the emphasis on municipal elections—one of your most important missions in your capacity as defense minister. That being the case, why would you not take the initiative and call an election in the territories, even as a unilateral Israeli step?

[Arens] That is a very important proposal. Incidentally, we ponder over the implementation of such an initiative almost daily. However, we have a problem which we need to overcome, and that is the current situation in the territories and the fear. The most outstanding feature in all those hundreds of meetings I have had is the fear voiced by Palestinians, not from Israelis but from other Arabs.

[Liss] The fear cannot be abated? In other words, as long as the fear persists—and it is going to last a long time—we also put off the question of the elections?

[Arens] I would not say that the fear cannot be abated. I think it is our duty to lower that fear, because—for humanitarian reasons—we cannot come to terms with the daily terror and killings of Palestinians by their fellow Palestinians. Of course, we cannot talk about holding free and democratic elections in such a climate. That climate must change.

[Shlonsky] In your talks, do the Palestinian leaders not tell you that they regard the PLO as their exclusive leadership?

[Arens] I would say that most Palestinians I met also say that. Sometimes it is said in passing, while at other times I get the impression that they feel they must say it. However, almost without fail, they tell me that they are interested in free elections. When I ask one of them whether he would be prepared to present himself as a candidate, he says to me: My wife would not let me; I would be killed the next day.

[Liss] Well, this is a vicious circle. How do we break through it?

[Arens] I think it is obvious to all of us that we must overcome terror in order to break through this vicious circle.

[Ronen] Minister Arens, upon taking office, you said you had clear ideas about ways to end the intifadah. The incident on Temple Mount and the subsequent bloody

events followed, and the intifadah did not cool down as you may have expected. Have the last month's bloody events sobered you?

[Arens] I assume that when you say bloody events, you mean the incident on Temple Mount.

[Ronen] And everything that followed.

[Arens] Yes, everything that followed. The turmoil which started with the Temple Mount incident and, to a large extent, with the Gulf crisis and the inspiration some of the Palestinian residents derive from Saddam Husayn. I do not think we needed those events to sober us. We live in the Middle East, and we know it and the Arab world. We know that part of the Arab world, including the population of Judaea and Samaria, or a large part of it, does not share our values, does not attach importance to human life, thinks in terms of annihilating the State of Israel rather than negotiating with it. Those things do not surprise at all.

[Shlonsky] That is altogether a different tune. When you took office there was a feeling—which you encouraged—that the intifadah could be overcome and that there would be less stone- throwing and other incidents along the roads. The situation has now turned around and hit Israelis—or at least those who thought the intifadah could be tackled—in the face.

[Arens] I think we have the upper hand in the intifadah. Of all the Palestinians I have met, I did not find even one who did not understand and occasionally even openly admit to me that they will accomplish nothing through violence. They started the intifadah with very high expectations that they would drive Israel into a corner, that we would have no choice but to agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state. I believe that the number of inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza who currently entertain such illusions about the intifadah is minuscule.

[Ronen] You say we have the upper hand in the intifadah, but Israeli soldiers and policemen are being stabbed and civilians innocently walking down the street are being murdered. I would not call that a victory.

[Arens] We live in western Eretz Yisra'el, where there are 2.3 million Arabs. That is no small number; it is quite a high percentage of the total population. They walk in the streets of our cities, and they are employed in our economy. Among them there are haters of Israel, assassins who are prepared to risk their own lives in order to murder somebody and who are even prepared to endanger a child standing nearby. That is nothing new to us. For years we have been coping with such phenomena, which increased as a result of the Temple Mount incidents. We will overcome this, too. Our public has withstood such trials before. Many Israelis have military experience, and some of them carry arms when they go out. We have an army, a police force, the Shin Bet, and the Civil Guard.

[Shlonsky] Mr. Minister, what are you telling us that is new? That we will deploy more troops, more soldiers, more guards, and more reservists? Where is the breakthrough? What can you tell the Israeli public that is watching us? Where is all this leading?

[Arens] I think there are very few Israelis who think the problems of the Middle East or Arab hostility toward Israel can be solved through a breakthrough, that there is some sort of magic formula. This is a struggle that we have been waging rather well and in which I think we have been scoring one victory after another. Anybody who thinks a man may come up with some new formula to solve all these problems tomorrow and change the character of the Arab world...

[Shlonsky, interrupting] We are not talking about a solution but about the beginning of something. We signed a peace treaty with Egypt, which was a major achievement, but since then the feeling has been one of regression.

[Arens] Look, if you consider Saddam Husayn a regression, I will not argue with you on that definition. We were not the ones who invented Saddam Husayn; he is a phenomenon characteristic of the Arab world around us.

[Liss] Minister Arens, Saddam Husayn is in a faraway place. But if we look at what lies ahead three weeks from now...

[Arens, interrupting] A faraway place that is threatening us.

[Liss] But faraway nevertheless. What threatens us now is the fear felt in the street for which we have not found a solution. Our answer to the stones were cars with reinforced windows. Our answer to the knives today is to deploy policemen and soldiers wearing flak jackets. In other words, we do not react well; we react too late and with reservations. At present, our reaction is reflected in the fact that Jews in Judaea and Samaria drive only on safe roads. Many roads were closed to Jews. Security exists only in areas where the Army is present, and there is no security beyond that.

[Arens] I do not agree with your description.

[Liss] That is a description of the situation by a man who tours the area.

[Arens] I also tour the area, and I would like to remind you that 70,000 Jews live in Judaea and Samaria today and that there are no apartments available in Ari'el and in Ma'ale Adummim. People are waiting in line to settle in those places. I think that says it all. People are aware of the problems, but in spite of it there is progress.

[Ronen] But in Jerusalem, Minister Arens, people are afraid to walk down the street. I am not talking about East Jerusalem, which Jews have stopped frequenting long ago, but about West Jerusalem.

[Arens] I suggest that people stop looking for some magic formula. Does anybody propose to take 150,000 Arabs and kick them out of Jerusalem? Does anybody think we

can withdraw from those areas of Jerusalem which used to lie beyond the Green Line before the Six-Day War? Jerusalem is our capital and will remain united. We will find the way, and the Arabs of Jerusalem will have to find the way to live with us in peace.

[Liss] Sir, I will use your own words describing the intifadah as a war. After incidents involving explosive charges and shooting, we ask Army officers whether use has already been made of firearms and their answer is: Not yet. Nevertheless, the fact is that we have had explosive charges and roadside bombs, and that buses and people have been shot at. In other words, use has already been made of firearms and you talk about a war. Perhaps, our handling of the situation should be different.

[Arens] First of all, I do not agree with the answer of not yet. We have been waging this struggle—you may call it a war—within the constraints and norms we established. Not only are we not ashamed of that, but we are proud of it. We know that those inhabitants of the territories who engage in violence and terrorist attacks take advantage of the fact that they are fighting a population that has norms and standards that are altogether different from those in the Arab world. I think that if we embraced the norms prevailing in the Arab world, that would constitute their victory. Our victory lies in the fact that we have been having the upper hand in the intifadah while maintaining our norms and standards.

[Ronen] Sir, with your permission, we will move over to the question of our relations with the United States. There have recently been reports about an increase in strategic cooperation with regard to the Gulf crisis. Will we be able to respond to an Iraqi attack against us without first coordinating our response with the United States?

[Arens] You will have to forgive me for saying that I do not think this is the place to go into operational details about what will be done if and when. Admittedly, there is strategic cooperation between us and the United States. An agreement to this effect was signed during my previous term in office as defense minister in 1983. I think it reflects the close and good relations between the two countries, and I believe this strategic cooperation has withstood the trial of the current crisis.

[Shlonsky] Sir, at that time the issue was cooperation vis-a-vis the Soviet Union. We were not placed under the U.S. European, rather than the Middle East, command by coincidence. The situation has changed now. Could it not be that Israel has simply been losing its strategic prominence in the eyes of the United States, whereas the importance of the Arab coalition has been rising?

[Arens] I do not think it is my duty as the Israeli defense minister to rate our strategic importance to the United States; that should be decided in Washington. I think that the current scope of strategic cooperation aptly reflects Washington's opinion about the importance of these relations.

[Liss] Speaking about the importance of our strategic cooperation with the Americans, do we have an either vague or explicit promise that in their first strike the Americans will definitely hit the missiles aimed at Israel?

[Arens] We have never asked anybody to defend us; we have never asked anybody to fight for us. We will never ask that. We are able to defend ourselves, and we will do that properly if necessary.

[Liss] Does that mean that if something happens, we will be the first to strike at the missiles aimed at us?

[Arens] We will do everything necessary to defend our country.

[Shlonsky] We are not asking the United States for help in times of war, but are we asking from it information such as intelligence gathered by satellites? Are we pleased with the information we have been receiving?

[Arens] As I said before, there is strategic cooperation. This is implemented in various areas, including intelligence, and I think it is being implemented to the satisfaction of both sides.

[Shlonsky] Bush's popularity has decreased in the last few days due to his handling of the Gulf crisis. Do you subscribe to the view of many Israelis who fear that the Gulf crisis might end without a war and with Saddam Husayn, if not staying in Kuwait, then at least remaining in power in Baghdad?

[Arens] My answer to such questions has always been that the Israeli defense minister should not give advice to the U.S. President, certainly not through the media.

[Shlonsky] Perhaps you should tell us what would be good for us, for Israel.

[Arens] Saying what would be good for Israel would be tantamount to saying what I wish should happen or what I advise. I think that would be improper. As you probably know, many troops—led by the Americans, but not just them—have been deployed in the Gulf, and they are apparently being reinforced. It seems to me that if Saddam Husayn shows no signs that he is prepared to pull out, apparently there will ultimately be a military confrontation.

[Ronen] We are nearing the end of our program, Mr. Arens. Finance Minister Moda'i was shocked today by your demand to add another 1.5 billion shekels to the defense budget. He said the decision must be made by the Cabinet and that if that sum is added it will ruin the entire Israeli economy. Will it end up as usual, in a compromise?

[Arens] I do not think there is any room for shock. Of course, each person presents his position, and there is a certain amount of dramatics in these discussions. That does not mean they are not being seriously considered. I believe that each citizen, as well as the Treasury, understands that we are undergoing a very difficult security

situation that calls on us to make investments in order to upgrade our alert. We are busy on four fronts: the preparedness against Saddam Husayn, defending the northern border, the war against the intifadah, and now deployment along the Jordanian frontier.

[Ronen] But we also have to absorb thousands of immigrants.

[Arens] Yes, certainly, but our qualitative edge can today only depend on our own defense industries. Everything the United States sells us it also sells to the Arabs. That is not to mention what they get from the British and French. Therefore, to assure our qualitative edge in the balance of forces—which is vital—we must invest in arms systems of our own development. That demands investments in the defense industries, which also contribute to employment for immigrants. Therefore, by doing that we can kill two birds with one stone: We create jobs, which I believe is the central problem in immigrant absorption, and at the same time we strengthen ourselves.

[Ronen] You have still not answered me on whether 1.5 billion shekels is the figure over which you are not be prepared to compromise.

[Arens] I did not want to enter negotiations with you, since I do not know whether you represent the Treasury or the Defense Ministry.

[Liss] Sir, back to political issues: Israel recently entered a whirlwind of personal and political relations with the United States and the United Nations. Your voice has not been heard. Why?

[Arens] I do not know why you expected to hear my voice. I believe that I have good relations with Dick Cheney, my counterpart in the United States. That is my job. I believe that for the government to function properly each minister should deal with his portfolio. It is up to the prime minister to coordinate between all the ministers. I deal with my business, defense issues.

[Ronen] Perhaps, had you expressed yourself, you would have entered into a confrontation or differences with the prime minister and the foreign minister?

[Arens] I believe that the moment that ministers begin to express themselves publicly on issues what are the responsibility of other ministers there is certainly the danger of confrontations between ministers and with the prime minister, which I believe are unnecessary. Coordination is up to the prime minister, and he knows how to do it.

[Ronen] A final question: The prime minister recently celebrated his 75th birthday. He spoke, and not for the first time, about the possibility of retiring. David Levi and Ari'el Sharon once told him that they view themselves as candidates to head the party and the government. Do you also see yourself as a candidate?

[Arens] The prime minister looks in very good condition to me. I believe there is no room to talk about other candidates.

[Ronen] But he said that sooner or later...

[Arens, interrupting] We will discuss it later.

[Ronen] In other words, you do not want to say now that you are a candidate.

[Arens] That is right.

[Ronen] Thank you, Mr. Defense Minister.

Levi Says Cooperation With U.S. 'Intensified'

TA1511072590 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Nov 90 pp 1, 10

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] Israel and the U.S. have reached agreement on a common line to be pursued in the UN Security Council over the proposal that Israel receive an envoy of the secretary-general, Foreign Minister David Levi said yesterday.

Replying to a motion for the agenda about Israel-U.S. relations, which was put on the agenda despite Levi's request that it be voted down, the minister said that the envoy would come "on a totally different basis" from that of the Security Council resolution on the Temple Mount killings which the U.S. supported and Israel rejected.

Although opposition MKs [Knesset members] tried to press Levi over the envoy's terms of reference, the minister refused to go into detail, saying that the issue was "delicate," and warned that "the thing could easily fail."

Apart from the difference with the U.S. about the UN condemnation, which was now settled, Levi said that cooperation between Jerusalem and Washington had not only continued as usual but had even intensified in the financial, security and scientific areas.

"We shall be jointly developing some of the most advanced defense systems in the world, and we shall be coordinating in extremely sensitive areas. We shall be collaborating in other realms which I cannot talk about," he told the Knesset. [passage omitted]

Levi Signs Cooperation Agreement With Zaire

TA0811162790 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 8 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] A cooperation agreement was signed yesterday between Israel and Zaire.

The agreement was signed by Foreign Minister David Levi and Zaire's minister for international cooperation.

According to the agreement, Israel will give 100 grants to Zairian students specializing in medicine, agriculture, industry, and commerce.

Agudat Yisra'el, SHAS Deny Report on Deal

TA1111083690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Nov 90 p 8

[Report by political correspondents Sarah Honig and Michal Yudelman]

[Text] Senior Agudat Yisra'el sources last night vigorously denied reports emanating from SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] that both parties are plotting a deal with Labor to bring down the Shamir government. In fact, the sources stressed that their party's supreme authority, the Council of Tora Sages, is due to meet this week to ratify Aguda's entry into the coalition.

Reports that a scheme to bring down the government is being hatched between Labor and the two haredi [ultraorthodox] parties has gained currency over the weekend, but Aguda sources say that "it is clear that Labor is intensely interested in spreading these stories, as might be a certain sector in SHAS. These are unfounded rumors, however, and Aguda has decided that it is casting its lot with the Likud."

The reports were also denied within SHAS, especially by sources close to Interior Minister Arye Der'i.

Aguda's ties with the Likud were strengthened on Friday [9 November] when a tentative agreement was reached to coopt Aguda MK [Knesset member] Shmu'el Halpert onto the Knesset's Finance Committee. Halpert would be Aguda's second representative on the powerful committee. The party has already been promised the key post of Finance Committee chairman, which is expected to go to MK Moshe Ze'ev Feldman.

Halpert had initially been offered a deputy ministerial post in the Prime Minister's Office, with a brief that would put him in charge of the National Insurance Institute. Halpert, however, prefers to serve on the Finance Committee and a space for him there is likely to be made by the resignation from the committee of Likud MK Ari'el Weinstein (Liberal), who will be compensated with a deputy minister's post. Halpert may be named the Finance Committee deputy chairman.

In addition, Aguda will have two deputy ministers in the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, one of them with responsibility for the portfolio. There may also be an Aguda deputy minister in the Prime Minister's Office in charge of Jerusalem affairs.

The Council of Tora Sages is expected to make the entire deal with the Likud hinge on the Likud's fulfilling its part of a legislative bargain with a specified period of time. The bargain calls for speeding through legislation that would ban "pornographic" advertising, prevent public transport from encroaching on the Sabbath, toughen enforcement of existing anti-abortion legislation, and restrict the raising and marketing of pork in Israel.

Elite Units Sent to Reinforce Jordan Border

TA1511075190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Nov 90 p 1

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] Tel Aviv—The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has sent additional units equipped with advanced equipment to the Jordan Valley to redress the shortcomings exposed on Tuesday when a teenage gunman eluded soldiers for 30 hours, killed a guard, and penetrated a fortified position overlooking the Damiya Bridge.

More measures were being discussed last night at a meeting Chief of General Staff Dan Shomron held at his headquarters here.

Defense officials would only say that the army was taking "appropriate steps along the Jordan Valley to forestall attempted incursions."

But an informed source told THE JERUSALEM POST that dozens of elite troops have been sent to the area to reinforce the reservists manning the positions along the Jordan river. Night vision equipment and other early-warning devices were also sent, the source said.

Last night, Shomron was reportedly considering the possibility of permanently stationing better troops along the Jordan border instead of reserves. But this would compound the IDF's manpower problem, already complicated by the intifada.

At the moment, however, the IDF is not planning on broad changes in the infantry's training program. A senior military source told THE JERUSALEM POST that it was not yet clear whether the flaws which were discovered on Tuesday relate to the Regional Defense Unit stationed there, or whether the problem is more widespread. This matter will be examined, he said. [passage omitted]

Soldiers serving along the Jordan border in the Negev have been instructed to be more alert, a senior military source reported. [passage omitted]

Probable Kakh Supporter Stabs Jew, Arab

TA1411192590 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] A news item just in: A Jew, probably a Kakh supporter, a short time ago stabbed a Jew and an Arab in a butcher shop in Adoniyahu Hakohen Street in Jerusalem's Bukharan neighborhood. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that when the assailant arrived at the shop he demanded that the butcher stop hiring Arabs and then tried to stab an Arab laborer. When the butcher's father tried to defend the Arab, the assailant stabbed both of them and ran away. An ambulance took

the wounded to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, where they are reported to be suffering from medium wounds.

IDF Imposes Wide-Scale Curfews in Territories

TA1411183190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Report by Arye Gus]

[Excerpts] Despite the curfews imposed today by the military government on large areas in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, preparations are being felt for tomorrow's second anniversary of 'Arafat's declaration of the establishment of the Palestinian state. Several organizations, including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian Communist Party, and Fatah in Bethlehem, published leaflets to mark the event. In the leaflets, the organizations say Israel has not managed to wipe out the idea of a Palestinian state. In many areas in the territories, flags were hoisted and youths decorated their homes and cars; in Gaza, colored balloons were flown and parties and celebrations are planned. [passage omitted]

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] took precautionary steps to prevent the rioting and disturbances expected in the territories. The forces were beefed up, especially in view of the recent attacks, which included shootings and stabbings, but the soldiers have been told to intervene only in serious incidents. The IDF imposed curfews on neighborhoods of Gaza, Rafah, Khan Yunus, and many refugee camps. In Judaea and Samaria, curfews were clamped on Nabulus, Janin, and Tulkarm. Many towns and refugee camps were declared closed military areas. In general, however, quiet was maintained and no special incidents were reported. This situation will continue for several days. We should remember that 29 November [the anniversary of the U.N. resolution on the partition of Palestine] still awaits us.

Four Suspected of 'Collaborating' Killed in Gaza

TA1011185090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Two Gaza Strip residents were murdered over the weekend, and two others died of wounds sustained at the hand of unknown attackers some two weeks ago. Also, a Rafah resident was shot and wounded. Our correspondent Arye Gus notes that all these attacks were made against individuals suspected of collaborating with the authorities. Life in the Strip reverted to normal today, following two strike days.

Unrest, Sentences, Demolitions, Reported Nov 8

TA0811151690

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 8 November, in a report by Jon Immanuel and Matthew Seriphs on page 10, reports: "In 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp, near Nabulus, soldiers who came in a civilian car raided houses and declared the camp a closed military area. They arrested three UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] officials—two of them refugee affairs officers from Denmark and New Zealand—for refusing to leave a closed military area. The officials were released after three hours, local and UN sources said."

Immanuel and Seriphs also write: "In the Gaza Strip, eight people were injured, Palestinians reported. Four in al-Shati' refugee camp—including a 70-year-old woman and a 79-year-old man—were shot in the face by rubber bullets, according to sources; two were injured in Jabalyah and two in al-Mughazi refugee camp.

"The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] reported six Palestinians slightly injured, and said all curfews in the Strip have now been lifted except for the one in Bayt Hanun.

"Three gasoline bombs were thrown at army patrols, but no one was injured, the IDF said."

Reporting on page A2 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 8 November, military correspondent Eytan Rabin says: "Three Gaza youths were sentenced to life by the Gaza court, after being found guilty of kidnaping a local inhabitant. According to the indictment, the three—Nasir Muhammad al-Gharbawi, Hasan Abu-Safida, and Muhammad al-'Abidi from the al-Mughazi refugee camp—tortured their victim and buried him in a sewage pit even before he died."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 8 November, in a report by Hayim Broida on page 12, states: "In the village of Dayr al-Ghusun in the Tulkarm district, masked individuals who call themselves 'the Fatah Commando' kidnaped 'Abd-al-Rahim Faruq. He was severely beaten for suspected cooperation with the authorities. He was evacuated to the local hospital with serious injuries."

David Regev, reporting on the same page of the same issue of YEDI'OT AHARONOT, adds: "Approximately 200 Fatah activists have recently been detained by the security forces all over the Gaza Strip. The detention of others who have already been brought to jail was extended, Arab sources in the Gaza Strip reported."

In another story on the same page, David Regev reports: "The commander of the 'Black Panther' squad from the Rafah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, which specialized in the murder of camp residents suspected of cooperation with Israel, managed to flee to Egypt via the Rafah border crossing a few days ago.

"Yasir Za'nun is thought to have killed more than 20 suspected collaborators. In the past few years four squads of masked men have operated in Rafah, killing camp residents suspected of cooperating with Israel.

"Yasir Za'nun's squad, whose members wore black while on mission, specialized in shooting their victims at point blank range. The squad members would identify and locate the victim and encircle him, and it was usually Za'nun who would shoot the victim with a pistol."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 8 November reports: "The IDF last night demolished a house in the al-Burayj refugee camp in the Gaza Strip and partially demolished another house belonging to local residents suspected of involvement in the murder of the reserves soldier Amnon Pomerantz. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the security forces also demolished part of a house in Khan Yunus in which members of the Palestinian Ninja reside. Two people from that group are suspected of participating in the murder of three residents thought to have been aiding the authorities, including a woman in a late stage of pregnancy.

"The IDF this morning imposed a curfew on refugee camps and villages in the Gaza Strip to prevent rioting during the general strike to mark one month since the Temple Mount events. Gaza's Rimal neighborhood, Baghdad Street, and Palestine Square were also closed."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 8 November reports: "A Rafah resident tried to stab an Israeli soldier who was checking his documents at a roadblock near Rafah in the Gaza Strip. Another soldier fired at the assailant, who was slightly injured and captured. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the attacked soldier was unhurt, thanks to a flak jacket. Flak jackets were distributed recently to soldiers who man roadblocks and guard posts in the territories."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 8 November reports: "Two boys, aged 13 and 14, from Bayt Hanina were apprehended yesterday. They were carrying a gasoline container and matches and admitted that they were going to set Israeli vehicles on fire. One of them also admitted that approximately five months ago he hurled a firebomb at a car in East Jerusalem, but that it failed to cause any damage. The detention of one of them was extended by 10 days, while his companion was remanded in custody for eight days."

Islamic Radicalization Trend Seen in Intifadah

TA1211102590 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Nov 90 p A3

[Report by Yizhar Be'er]

[Text] The killings and stabbings of Jews by individuals have altered the public mood in the territories, defense establishment elements believe. Whereas until a month ago Jerusalem was perceived as leading the political intifadah, and the West Bank and Gaza leading the violent intifadah, in the past few weeks Jerusalem has been leading both. The latest events have triggered ambivalent feelings among Palestinian activists: on the one hand satisfaction, but on the other hand also a feeling that events are no longer in control.

Several private entrepreneurs are currently spearheading events. They are influenced by the radicalization in the tone of the sermons in the mosques and by the Islamic terminology used by the Palestinian press, including the secular press. Palestinian personalities come under the influence of the street mob, while the latter are afraid of bodily harm.

Security elements have reported that since the outbreak of the intifadah, 366 Palestinians suspected of cooperation with the authorities have been murdered in the territories. Most of them had had no security or intelligence contact with authorities, but were eliminated against the backdrop of personal account-settling, morality, or rivalry among various groups.

Some 900 Palestinians have been seriously injured during attempts on their lives. During the same period, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] caused 624 Palestinian fatalities.

In the past few weeks the trend has continued of growing Islamic strength in the territories. In the latest elections for UN Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] institutions and the Gaza labor unions, Islamic elements predictably won. They also scored a victory in elections in two academic institutions in the West Bank, where PLO elements had traditionally been preferred: the academic college in al-Birah, and the UNRWA institute in Ramallah.

Security elements believe that the four factions identified with the PLO (the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Communist Party, and Fatah) are weakening in proportion to the strengthening of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and that in elections for the "national institutions" in the territories they will be defeated by Hamas. The assessment is that the agreement on regulating Fatah-Hamas relations, which was signed a few weeks ago and which includes Fatah concessions to Hamas, is not being upheld by activists in the area. One example that proves this point is the assassination of a Nabulus physician, Dr. 'Afif Barabari, apparently by Hamas supporters.

The feeling of distress which permeates the PLO elements is currently compounded by the financial constraints stemming from the Gulf crisis and the instruction the PLO has issued that 30 percent of the "national institutions'" budgets be slashed. At the same time, the PLO scrupulously preserves certain budgets, such as the assistance to the families of prisoners, or allowances to the orphans and widows of intifadah victims.

Poll Asks For Solution to Territories Question

TA0911100790 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Nov 90 p 1

["Public opinion poll conducted by Mina Zemah's Dahaf Institute"—YEDI'OT AHARONOT subslug]

[Text] Question: Of the following solutions, which do you think is preferable? 1. Immediate withdrawal from the territories. 2. Withdrawal in stages. 3. Unilateral autonomy. 4. Annexation but with extending civil rights to the residents. 5. Annexation without giving the residents civil rights. 6. Transfer of the Arab residents.

(Figures are in percentages):

Withdrawal	33
Autonomy	30
Annexation With Rights	6
Annexation Without Rights	4
Transfer	20
No Response	7

Question: Which of the following solutions has the greatest prospect for being implemented? [percentages as published]

Withdrawal	27
Autonomy	33
Annexation With Rights	5
Annexation Without Rights	5
Transfer	5

The poll, conducted by telephone last Tuesday and Wednesday, encompassed 530 interviewees who formed a representative sample of the Jewish population.

130 Falashas Arrive 8 Nov; More Expected

TA0811193790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Nov 90

[Text] One hundred and thirty [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 8 November reports the figure to be 103] immigrants from Ethiopia have arrived in Israel tonight on a flight from Rome. This is the largest group of Ethiopian Jews to immigrate since Addis Ababa stopped Jewish emigration. The immigrants got off the plane with much excitement and many kissed the ground. Many are said to be ill and require medical treatment. Another 600 Ethiopian immigrants are expected in Israel this month. [In the 1800 GMT Jerusalem Domestic Hebrew cast, the report on future emigration is attributed to Ge'ula Kohen, deputy minister of energy and infrastructure, science and technology, who welcomed the immigrants at Ben-Gurion Airport.]

107 Arrive 15 Nov

TA1511072290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] This morning, 107 Ethiopian immigrants landed in Israel. They all have families here. Our correspondent Nava Kohen adds that approximately 600 Ethiopian immigrants arrived this month, while a total of 2,500 Ethiopians have come to Israel since the beginning of 1990.

Number of Soviet Jews Settling in Jerusalem Drops

TA0911110390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Nov 90 p 2

[Report by Herb Keinon]

[Excerpt] The percentage of Soviet immigrants settling in Jerusalem is dropping, with only 1,051 (five percent) of the 21,163 who arrived last month choosing to live in the capital, city councillor Tzvi Rosen told the heads of the council's factions yesterday.

This proportion is down from the six percent that arrived in September and is far from the 30 percent goal that government officials hoped would strengthen the Jewish demographic position in the capital. [passage omitted]

Leaders Urged To Accept New U.S. UN Policy

TA1311174290 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Nov 90 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "Just Not A Veto"]

[Text] Leaders of David Ben-Gurion's stature die hard; and the United Nations is no longer a "piece of nothing" [reference to David Ben-Gurion remark on organization]. Even Yitzhaq Shamir understands this. As far as he is concerned, it would be better if the United Nations remained the boxing ring in which the East and West fight, a place where Israel could hide behind Uncle Sam's broad shoulders every time its enemies raise their hand against it.

Except now the United Nations has become the United States' political spearhead, and may soon also serve as the home front for military action against Iraq, led by the United States. Obviously the United States cannot simultaneously praise the consensus among the Security Council members and veto proposals that are meant to demonstrate the cohesiveness of that very same consensus.

If he needed further proof that the days of the automatic veto are gone forever, or that the phenomenon is, at the least, on an extended furlough, then Shamir might have learned about this from the report on President Bush's meeting with American Jewish leaders. During the intermissions between his telephone conversations with Secretary James Baker, who reported on his mission of uniting ranks around U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf, the President told the Jewish lobbyists: "I cannot impose a veto on the whole world, and I find it hard to understand why Israel is rejecting the Security Council resolutions."

In the course of a consultation in his office on the mess created over the Temple Mount, Foreign Minister David Levi said that although the United Nations has recently been rehabilitated, "the United States still calls the shots there." It seems Levi, like many other decisionmakers, cannot easily accept the new and complex international reality which began with the thaw between the two major blocs, continued through the Gulf crisis, and may eventually bring about a new Middle East order. The United States may still be able to do anything it wants in the United Nations, but it does not wish to march up and down the glass building's corridors like a bull in a china shop.

Even though the Americans are often perceived in the Middle East as klutzes, it seems that this time they firmly refuse to deprive Israel of that epithet. Israel bungled first by shooting at worshipers at a site holy to the three religions.

Then Shamir appointed a commission of inquiry headed by a civilian who had been the chief of the most rigid of Israel's establishment institutions. And to add insult to injury, even though the commission placed some of the blame on the top police brass, none of the figures involved were penalized, and we were even told yesterday that the commander of the Jerusalem police will be promoted to compensate for the fact that he was not appointed the district commander. After all this, it takes real chutzpah to ask the United States to soil its shoes to pull Israel out of the mud.

Jerusalem claims that the United States is turning its back on us because of its obligations to the Gulf coalition. The decisionmakers contend that normally the United States would never have hesitated to impose an a priori veto on the proposal that a team be sent to the Israeli capital to probe the events. But this is an oversimplification, because it is doubtful whether the United States would have behaved the same had the sorry incident occurred in an Israel that had responded favorably to Baker and had launched a dialogue with the Palestinians. Now, whether Shamir and company like it or not, and whether the reason is the Arab-Arab conflict or the Palestinian-Israeli dispute, Israel is faced with a new situation.

The United States did not reject out of hand the UN secretary general's proposal that the signatories of the Geneva Convention meet to decide how to force Israel to apply the Fourth Geneva Convention to the territories and Jerusalem. Deputy Minister Binyamin Netanyahu argued during consultations that the United States had actually already held contacts with the Swiss Government and that the meeting could take place in six weeks, not six months as some officials had predicted. Therefore, he said, we should not bank on the hope that the matter would be forgotten in the heat of the Gulf war. The August forum of the 163 countries could have instructed the Security Council to dispatch observers to the territories, and Israel could have found itself facing unprecedentedly heavy international pressure.

Backed by its nonaligned allies, the PLO is striving to combine its proposal that UN observers be sent to the territories with the secretary general's suggestion that the signatories of the Geneva Convention meet. The PLO realizes that as long as it does not stretch things to the extreme, the United States will not pull the veto trick against the proposal. In the past few days, Britain and France have been promoting efforts to soften the Arab proposal. Jerusalem believes that the United States would not object to, say, an extension of the UN Relief and Works Agency mandate to also include periodic reports to the secretary general on developments in the territories. To counter all this, what Levi painstakingly managed to do was to persuade Shamir to extend an invitation—as was the case in June (following the killing in Rishon Leziyyon)—to a friendly emissary, on a personal basis, and to even mention his name: Jean-Claude Aime.

It seems that literally at the 11th hour, Israel offered a settlement it could have already accepted many weeks ago, thereby sparing itself an additional dose of tension with its most important friend. As David Levi informed the Knesset yesterday, the United States is prepared to accept any solution that would bring the Iraqi issue back to the forefront of the Security Council's agenda—anything, that is, except a veto. Even if the Temple Mount affair is put to rest after the courtesy visit of our friend Aime, this affair shows that veto, like trust and chemistry and other important elements, is a word that is gradually disappearing from the lexicon of U.S.-Israeli relations. A senior official in Jerusalem yesterday remarked about the contacts with the United States over the compromise formula with a touch of nostalgia when he said: "At least they are talking to us again."

Al-Qasim Meets Daniel Ortega, Discusses Gulf

JN1411125790 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim today discussed the latest developments in the Middle East and the Gulf crisis with former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. Mr. al-Qasim briefed Mr. Ortega on the dangerous situation in the area and the dire need for concentrated efforts to solve the crisis peacefully.

Mr. al-Qasim said the visit is backed by those powers who believe in international legitimacy which should be enforced on all issues and implemented by all governments. Mr. al-Qasim stressed Jordan's persistence in playing the role it initiated from the start to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Mr. Ortega commended Jordan's role under the leadership of his majesty the king to work out a peaceful solution to the crisis. He said dialogue and the voice of reason is the only and most suitable solution for the Gulf crisis. Mr. Ortega will meet his majesty the king when he returns from Baghdad.

Mauritanian Minister Stops En Route to Iraq

JN1111190590 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Mauritanian Information Minister Mohamed Ould Lemine Ahmed has called for an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis. This came in a statement to our correspondent Na'il al-Hurut on the minister's arrival in Amman this evening on his way to Iraq.

[Begin recording] [Ahmed] The Arabs at this difficult stage are endeavoring to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis. This is a point at which we meet with our Jordanian brothers. King Husayn's efforts to reach a quick, peaceful solution to this crisis are honorable and enjoy the support of most of the Arab countries that seek peace.

[Al-Hurut] Mr. Minister, His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco called for an Arab summit today. Would you like to comment on this?

[Ahmed] My comment is that Mauritania welcomes every Arab effort. After all, the solution must be an Arab one. We welcome any call by any Arab party, especially if it comes from the countries of the Arab Maghreb. [end recording]

The Mauritanian minister was received at the airport by Information Ministry Director General Tirad al-Fayiz and a number of Ministry officials.

Novelist Says No Choice But To Support Saddam

JN1311184690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Oct 90 p 5

["Arab Unity Outweighs Democracy" by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis Andoni]

[Text] For Mu'nis al-Razzaz, a prominent novelist and political activist, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn is not a model for a democratic Arab leader. Yet Mr. al-Razzaz finds himself, like many of his peers, rallying behind Saddam in the current confrontation with the West.

"One does not really have an option but to support Saddam, for the crucial issue at stake is sovereignty and not democracy," al-Razzaz says.

Al-Razzaz's dilemma is an example of the intellectual challenge posed by the Gulf crisis for Arab advocates of democracy. While the West views the conflict as that of an international campaign against a ruthless dictator, many Arab intellectuals back Saddam because they believe the struggle for democracy will be futile without asserting Arab sovereignty.

"There is no democracy when society's will is dictated by foreign domination," says Mazin al-Sakit, a writer, who, like al-Razzaz has been active in promoting democracy in Jordan.

But al-Razzaz and Mr. Sakit entertain no illusion about Saddam. Until 1979 both were members of the Iraqi wing of the Pan-Arab Ba'thist Party led by Saddam. Both left, disillusioned with the movement's ability to reconcile the struggle for democracy with national independence.

Al-Razzaz is the son of Munif al-Razzaz, a Jordanian who served as assistant general secretary of the Ba'thist Party until he was dismissed in 1979 for opposing the Iraqi leadership's crackdown on leftists and freedom of expression.

"Repression should not be allowed to become a daily practice by the state," wrote the senior Mr. al-Razzaz in his book "The Predicament of the Left." Such a policy is a fundamental violation of one of Ba'thism's basic principles, freedom." [quotation marks as published]

Mr. al-Razzaz was under house arrest until his death in Baghdad in 1984. His son fled to Beirut, later returning to Jordan where he depicted his father's uncompromising struggle for democracy in a novel called "The Confessions of a Gunsilencer." The book refects the despair and disilusionment within the Pan-Arab struggle for unity and freedom.

Ironcially, just as the Iraqi regime's shortcomings shattered al- Razzaz's dreams of Pan-Arabism, Saddam's challenge to Western interests in the region sparked new hope for achieving Arab sovereignty and unity.

"For the first time, the struggle for Arab unity and sovereignty on a democratic basis appears to be possible," explains al-Razzaz, who argues that although he does not advocate the unification of the Arab World by force, the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait is relevant to Arab sovereignty.

According to this view, to which many intellectuals in Jordan subscribe, the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait heralds

the beginning of "a decolonisation" campaign which will pave the way for Arab unity and even democracy.

This scenario is derived from the philosophy of the Ba'thist Party —established in 1946 — that argues that Arab independence from foreign control is a prerequisite for the unification of the Arab World and its freedom.

Only through Arab control of Arab strategic natural resources —mainly oil— can Arab undermine the U.S. grip on the Arab World, the senior al-Razzaz argued.

The Gulf states, including Kuwait, are viewed by Pan-Arab nationalists as an obstacle to Arab sovereignty because they mainly serve the interests of Western and multinational corporations.

According to Arab analysts, this theory gained new significance and broader support after the Soviet political pullout from the region left the area vulnerable to U.S. and Israeli domination.

As a result of "American hegemony," al-Razzaz and al-Sakit argue, Israel appears to be successfully containing the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories, while Western control of oil resources will push the Palestinian problem into oblivion.

Moreover, supporters of Saddam fear that Western domination of Arab oil-producing countries could prevent the emergence of an effective Arab economic bloc and impede collective Arab action to counter Israel.

How Arab intellectuals sympathetic to Saddam can hope that a man with his past will achieve unity without sacrificing their dream of democracy, is one of the paradoxes of this argument.

"The West is shedding crocodile tears for democracy," counters Ibrahim Bakr, a lawyer and human rights advocate. "After all, they are defending corrupt and repressive oil shaykhs who still live in the Middle Ages."

Furthermore, there appears to be optimism among intellectuals who support Saddam that the democratisation drive gripping the world is "irreversible."

Intellectuals like al-Razzaz and al-Sakit believe that Saddam's challenge to the West is unwittingly unleashing a hitherto suppressed Arab popular movement.

"Times have changed," al-Razzaz says. "Saddam simply cannot succeed in leading the Arab World toward unity and sovereignty if he does not heed Arab popular will for democracy."

Columnist on Israeli Warnings on Infiltrations

JN1411150090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
14 Nov 90 p 22

["I Say a Word" column by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar: "Irrational Warnings"]

[Text] We ask God to have mercy on the soul of the Arab poet who boasted about his tribe's bravery by saying: We will be braver than the brave. Yesterday, I remembered this poet and recalled his saying while listening to Israeli military and civilian leaders compete with each other to issue warnings to this country and hold the Jordanian Government alone responsible for the recurrent infiltration attempts by citizens from Jordan to attack the Israeli army in our occupied homeland—as if these Jordanian citizens were attacking female students attending housekeeping courses in some country and not an aggressor army that has occupied their homeland and commits the most atrocious massacres against the inhabitants of that homeland and against their most sacred places.

It is strange that everything in this world is changing except those racist settlers who want to stop the cycle of history and maintain the status quo by military force under circumstances and in a country where the recourse to force is not in their interest.

These Jordanian citizens crossed into the homeland in the same way that 'Amir Abu-Sarhan did when he left al-'Abidiyah village full of anger with the cry of vengeance reverberating in the air. 'Amir Abu-Sarhan had no weapon but a knife and he killed three Israelis in the occupied homeland. Who is responsible for what 'Amir Abu-Sarhan did, particularly since he carried out his operation in the occupied homeland which is controlled by the invading Israeli forces? We sincerely view 'Amir Abu-Sarhan as a national hero and we will erect a statue of him after liberation, God willing, that will glorify his heroic deed. We also sincerely say that the Israeli Government alone is responsible for 'Amir Abu-Sarhan's actions. This is because it is the government that insists on perpetuating its occupation of the Arab land on which 'Amir and the Palestinian Arab people, the people of the intifadah, live; a people whose intifadah the world has come to know through the insistence of the Israeli occupiers to confiscate the Palestinian people's homeland and crush their will. The Israeli Government planned the al-Aqsa massacre, which has shaken the conscience of the Arabs and Muslims everywhere in the world and which has also shook 'Amir's conscience and made him seek vengeance for the victims of this massacre.

The Nazis do not read history and do not learn lessons from it. Otherwise, how could they carry out all these crimes, discount the Arab people's reactions to these massacres, and hold the Jordanian Government alone responsible for this incident? What is more strange is that terrorist Geula Cohen submits proposals that, if adopted, would result in another bloodshed in the region.

The alien occupiers should realize the perilous course they are following and they should understand that they are strangers in the Arab region, and that if they want to stay they should change their entire behavior and way of thinking because the owners of this region are only accustomed to receiving polite strangers.

Official Tally of Assets in Kuwait Questioned

JN1211091490 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
12 Nov 90 p 18

["Highlights" column by economist Fahd al-Fanik: "The Losses of the Expatriates in Kuwait"]

[Text] The Ministry of Labor called on all Jordanian expatriates to register and document their rights in Kuwait. Later, it reported that 6,000 expatriates out of the 80,000 Jordanians who were employed in Kuwait did actually contact it for this purpose.

Naturally, such a measure is not harmful; however, there is definitely no benefit from it, either. The former government of Kuwait did not allow 'foreigners' to own real estate or shares in companies. Therefore, all their savings, if they have been left behind in Kuwait, are in the form of bank deposits.

It is a known fact that deposits in Kuwati dinars in Kuwaiti banks are now equal to Iraqi dinars. Residents there can actually withdraw this money gradually. As for foreign currency deposits, they have been frozen abroad. They can only be paid back when the current freeze on Kuwaiti bank assets in Britain, the United States, and other places is lifted after the end of the Gulf crisis in one way or another.

These measures by the Labor Ministry could create unrealistic hopes that the Ministry can do something regarding this issue. Therefore, it was forced to deny that it had pledges from official quarters that the rights of Jordanians in Kuwait would be preserved. This is because the rights of all will be respected equally when that becomes possible. If the Kuwaiti banks do not retrieve their deposits abroad, they will not be able to pay anything to the depositors in foreign currency.

Apart from that, the Labor Ministry sources, which are not specialists, volunteered to declare that the rights of the Jordanians in Kuwait (that is their deposits) total $8 billion; that is an average of $100,000 for each employee. The Ministry based its unreasonable deduction on a sample consisting of 3,000 people; that is, the first batch of those who registered with the Ministry, which do not constitute a representative sample of everyone.

We doubt very much that this number is correct or anywhere near the truth, because any estimates of the savings of the expatriates—after deducting the transfers into Jordan or abroad—cannot exceed a tenth of these amounts at best. Add to that the fact that the official banking statistics of Kuwaiti banks, as published by the IMF, indicate that the total deposits of non-Kuwaitis amount to less than $8 billion. Nevertheless, Egypt declared that the Egyptian workers' share from this total amounts to $12 billion (just like that). We have no idea what the shares of other nationalities will amount to.

All world countries have declared astronomical losses as a result of what happened in Kuwait. If we exaggerate a little, we could say that the claimed losses exceed the wealth of the whole world. If it is true that the deposits of Jordanians in Kuwait amount to $8 billion, that would be a national scandal.

Jordanian, Foreign Arrivals From Iraq, Kuwait

JN1111210690 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2000 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Thousands of evacuees continued to cross into Jordan through the al-Ruwayshid border checkpoint. Official sources estimated the arrivals from Iraq and Kuwait during the last 24 hours at 5,000 people. They included about 2,000 Jordanians and 394 foreigners. [as heard].

Large Percent Oppose Foreign Presence in Gulf

JN1311154290 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
13 Nov 90 p 3

[By Hisham Suwaylih]

[Excerpts] Irbid—Researcher Dr. Faruq al-Halalshah from the Jordanian Studies Center at al-Yarmuk University has conducted a Jordanian public opinion poll on the Gulf crisis. Some 1,054 families were polled—that is, one of every 500 families—in most Jordanian cities and villages.

The results showed that 87.3 percent of citizens, male and female, regard the Iraqi forces' entry into Kuwait as a restoration of part of the motherland. [passage omitted]

Asked about the presence of foreign fleets, 2.4 percent said they approve; 96.5 percent said they do not approve; and 1.1 percent said they do not know. This means the presence of foreign armies and fleets on Arab land is rejected by a very high percentage of the Jordanian people.

The poll showed that 64.8 percent of Jordanian families were surprised at the speed with which the foreign intervention took place, and 35.5 percent believed the United States is seeking a military solution. The number of families objecting to the Security Council resolutions to besiege Iraq stood at 91.3 percent.

The poll showed that about 82 percent believed the United States, along with Israel and the West, will go to war against Iraq. For the sake of establishing peace and resolving the crisis, 54.1 percent said foreign forces should first pull out of Arab land, and 39.3 believed all regional problems should be dealt with simultaneously.

The majority believed the Gulf crisis should be resolved by the Arabs themselves, and that the best political institution for this purpose is the Arab League and an Arab summit conference. Meanwhile, 25 percent believed that an international conference is the best political institution to resolve the Gulf crisis.

Some 83.8 percent of the Kingdom's population believe that the Gulf crisis has given impetus to the Palestine question. [passage omitted]

Two Treasury Bond Types Offered in Dollars

JN1311105790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Nov 90 pp 1, 5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Fahd al-Fanik]

[Text] Amman—Jordan plans to issue two types of treasury bonds in U.S. dollars with interest rates equivalent to the London inter-bank offered rates (LIBOR)—normal bank interest rates plus one eighth per cent of extra on one type and one quarter per cent extra on the other.

According to informed sources here, the bonds will have a maturity period of five years, but the first type could be redeemed at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) two years after being issued, while the other type can only be redeemed after five years.

The sources said that the treasury bonds will be available to the Jordanian banks and the public in general, including Jordanian expatriates living abroad and wishing to invest their savings in U.S. dollars.

Investors in this type of bonds, they said, will eventually receive interest higher by at least one per cent over other rates available to small deposits in normal banking abroad.

To encourage commercial banks in Jordan to buy the new bonds, the sources added, the CBJ will consider the bonds as part of their cash reserves which these banks are required to deposit with the CBJ at the rate of 35 per cent of their deposits in foreign exchange. The CBJ will then release part of the commercial banks' reserves in foreign currency equal in value to the sum subscribed by the banks in the new treasury bonds, according to the sources.

This will be the first time for the CBJ to issue bonds in foreign currency, a step obviously designed to encourage members of the public wishing to invest in U.S. dollars in their country instead of smuggling funds abroad where they could be frozen or become liable to other risks.

In addition, the sources pointed out, interest earned on the new bonds will be tax free like all other government bonds. They said the new step is bound to greatly feed the CBJ's foreign currency reserves.

Transit Trade Declined Because of Gulf Crisis

JN0911210190 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1825 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Intensive efforts are being made by the Free Zones Corporation [FZC] and the concerned parties to overcome the negative situation in the transit trade. To learn about the magnitude of the damage caused to this trade, our economic affairs correspondent conducted the following interview with the FZC director general:

[Begin recording] [FZC Director General] The transit trade represents 60 percent of the overall work of the free zones. Fraternal Iraq imported 60 percent of the transit commodities. The shipment of this percentage of commodities has been almost totally halted. The Jordanian FZC, as a Jordanian institution, fully complies with the government's policy regarding the implementation of the sanctions. We have actually halted the shipment of commodities to Iraq. Additionally, the remaining 40 percent of the other transit trade handled by the free zones concern other fraternal Arab states. The volume of this transit trade has been reduced by half. Moreover, as regards the volume of the trade transactions conducted by the free zones with the local market, this volume has also been reduced by 35 percent. This decline is caused by the prevalent belief that the commodities shipped to the free zones might end up in Iraq. In my opinion, this is a mistaken belief, because the free zones have been complying fully with the sanctions, in line with the state's policy and course regarding this issue. Hence, there is no reason for the complications or restrictions that some parties have begun to impose on the commodities shipped to the free zones.

[Reporter] In addition to the damage caused to the transit trade, is has any damage plagued other investment sectors in the FZC?

[FZC director general] Yes, brother Yusuf, as a matter of fact, the export industries in the free zones have been directly affected by the Gulf crisis. Exports to Iraq have been halted. Besides, there has been a partial stoppage of exports to other neighboring Arab states. Moreover, the free zones have been directly affected by the Gulf crisis because the industrial projects that were under way in addition to those under consideration were halted. [end recording]

Tourism Losses Set at 400 Million Dinars

JN1311121590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Nov 90 p 3

[Excerpts] Amman (J.T.)—Jordan's estimated losses in the tourism industry as a result of the Gulf crisis are estimated at JD 400 million, but the Ministry of Tourism is currently taking measures designed to deal with the situation and to enable Jordan offset part of these losses, according to Minister of Tourism, 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti.

"The embargo imposed on the Arab region following Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, August 2, the siege imposed by foreign war ships on the sea port and resort of al-'Aqabah and instructions by European nations to their nationals to avoid coming to Jordan prompted many tour operators and tourist agencies to cancel visits to the Kingdom," the minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra. [passage omitted]

Al-Kabariti said the decline in the number of tourists means not only less income for the treasury in the form of customs duty, taxes and insurance transport, but a heavy blow to the country's balance of payments.

The tourism industry, the minister pointed out, is considered as one of the major sources of national income which last year brought in JD 314,600,000, up from JD 230,800,000 in 1988.

He said that before the Gulf crisis the tourism industry in Jordan was expected to achieve a 20 per cent increase over last year's income in view of the increased demand on tourist services and further requests and applications on the part of the private sector to invest in this industry.

"To deal with the consequences, the ministry has now moved to address the situation and help the country offset part of the losses," the minister pointed out.

He said that programmes had been initiated in cooperation with the private sector to issue tourist leaflets, many to the distributed abroad to fight off hostile propaganda against Jordan in the West, and cooperation will begin with international organisations and tour operators to resume their activities in Jordan and to resume organising trips for tourist groups to the cultural, religious and archaelogocial treasures in the Kingdom.

Transport Sector 'Greatly Harmed' by Crisis

JN0811131890 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Nov 90

[Text] Amman, 7 Nov (PETRA)—The Jordanian economy is being directly and negatively affected with each passing day as the Gulf crisis becomes more and more complicated. The economy has incurred heavy damages—particularly in the transport sector. Because of its geographic location, Jordan represents a vital passage for trade traffic in the region—and this sector is firmly entwined with the economies of Iraq and neighboring countries.

The Jordanian Government is doing its best to deal with the effects of the Gulf crisis on the national economy, especially in the fields of land, sea, and air transportation. It is studying every new phenomenon that emerges in this sector individually, and is taking the appropriate measures toward them through diplomatic and international channels.

The government's efforts to deal with many of these cases have yielded some results, especially in relation to the intercepting of cargo ships with goods bound for Jordan at al-'Aqabah port, in addition to establishing alternatives for distributing the internal land transportation traffic among the largest number of drivers.

The JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY met with Dr. Muhammad al-Sumadi, secretary general of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, who said: The transport sector has been greatly harmed as a result of the siege on Iraq, since it constitutes an important source of income to the Gross National Product. Its contribution during 1989 amounted to 12.2 percent of the Gross National Product. In other words, the income from this sector amounted to approximately 300 million dinars.

He added that external factors are affecting the process of accurately evaluating how and to what extent every element in the transport sector has been affected in both the short- and long-term. The most important of these factors is the anticipation of a continued state of military and economic siege on Iraq, along with its consequences to foreign trade in Jordan and Iraq—in addition to increases in the cost of insurance, petrol, and other operational necessities.

He added that the losses this sector will have to bear from the beginning of the Gulf crisis until the end of the current year are estimated at approximately 290.7 million dinars. This is a very conservative estimate which must be reviewed by the end of the year, depending on the developments that take place in the Gulf crisis.

Dr. al-Sumadi pointed out that losses to the sector of land transportation of goods and passengers will reach 201 million dinars; to Royal Jordanian 63 million; in al-'Aqabah port 25 million; in civil aviation 3.7 million dinars; and in the maritime lines 8 million dinars.

In the field of air transportation, Dr. al-Sumadi noted that developments in the region over the past several weeks have had great effects on the economics of operating Royal Jordanian [RJ] airlines. These events have added new financial burdens on the airline. The additional monthly cost has amounted to approximately $2.3 million. This cost is bound to increase depending on the development of the political situation in the region, because insurance companies are readjusting their premiums every 48 hours.

As a result of the rise in gasoline prices, the monthly RJ fuel bill has also risen by approximately $3.3 million over the normal averages that used to be prevalent before. Stopping RJ flights to Kuwait and Baghdad has led to net losses of about $2.2 million per month, after deducting the savings resulting from not operating these lines. One should realize that under normal circumstances and during this season, RJ used to operate 5 trips per week to each of Kuwait and Iraq.

The monthly losses incurred from the decrease in air traffic from other Gulf regions via Amman are estimated at $1.6 million.

There is also a loss of $2.8 million per month as a result of cancellations of package tours from Europe to al-'Aqabah for the coming tourist season. In addition, there are losses estimated at $100,000 per month as a result of the cancellation of contracts for training courses for pilots from other Arab and foreign airline companies at the RJ training center. This means that RJ's total losses in this field will amount to $12.6 million per month.

Regarding maritime transporation, Dr. al-Sumadi said that the direct effects of the events are felt on two major targets in this field, which are al-'Aqabah port and the national maritime company.

Due to the distinguished location of the port of al-'Aqabah, last year's total imports and exports amounted to 18 million and [figure indistinct] thousand tonnes, which were transported by 2,446 ships. The passengers transported across the port amounted to 770,000 passengers, in addition to trucks, buses, and small and medium-size vehicles.

The prevailing circumstances also negatively affected trade traffic in the port during the first seven months of this year by 10 percent. Trade at the port of imported and exported goods between January and July of the current year amounted to 9.9 million tonnes, 4.7 million tonnes of which were imports. Transit goods amounted to 67 percent, as opposed to 32 percent of Jordanian goods. Exports amounted to 5.2 million tonnes—94 percent of which are Jordanian products, the rest transit.

The income of port authorities is estimated at 37 million dinars as a result of this traffic. If costs are deducted, we find that the port authorities achieve a net annual income of approximately 20 million dinars.

Airline Chief Expects Large Yearly Losses

JN1211190190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Nov 90 p 3

[By Rabab Mango]

[Text] Amman—The Royal Jordanian (RJ) will be losing $150 million annually as a result of the Gulf crisis and the drop in the number of passengers flying aboard its planes, according to RJ President and Chief Executive Officer Hussam Abu-Ghazalah.

In an exclusive interview with the Arabic daily Al-Ra'y and the Jordan Times, Abu-Ghazalah said the financial loss and the drop in the number of passengers could be attributed to the Gulf crisis, and the consequent drop in transit traffic, and a decline in tourist flights as well as the suspension of Kuwait and Baghdad routes, the rise in fuel prices and the rising insurance premiums.

Abu-Ghazalah said that RJ had reduced its flight by 25 per cent but has not cancelled any of them.

Abu-Ghazalah pointed out that a comprehensive plan, drawn up by ?
wo years ago to cope with the economic reform programme and adopted by the Jordanian government in 1988, was paying off.

During the first seven months of this year, RJ has achieved an increase of 75 per cent in the number of passengers flying aboard its planes, according to the official. RJ has collected $164 million during the first seven months of this year, compared with $150 million during the same period in 1989, he said.

Abu-Chazalah pointed out that the RJ fleet has 20 different planes, including 11 passenger planes and three cargo planes.

He said that RJ had paid the first installment of the $62 million for chartered Airbus planes, and that talks were under way to work out financial arrangements to settle the second instalment. He added that RJ was contacting several parties to charter RJ planes to other companies, similar to the one RJ had chartered to Air Sri Lanka.

RJ has been grappling with economic difficulties even before the onset of the Gulf crisis. To find a way out of its difficult financial situation, RJ held talks with the Pension Fund to buy three-fourths of the shares of the Alia Gateway Hotel. The hotel was valued at JD [Jordanian Dinar] 7 million.

Commenting on the figure, Abu-Ghazalah confirmed reports about possible sale of Alia Hotel shares to the Pension Fund, but said final price of the hotel was not fixed.

RJ Vice President Majdi Sabri said that RJ had some revenues from the repatriation of evacuees, but they could hardly cover the drop in revenues from regular flights. It is estimated that RJ has collected $18 million in revenues from airlifting evacuees to their different destinations.

Shipping Agents Brief Al-Qasim on 'Embargo'

JN1311171490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Nov 90 pp 1, 16

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received in his office yesterday the president of the Jordanian shipping agents association, and members of the association's board.

Al-Qasim listened to a detailed explanation about the circumstances and obstacles facing the movement of ships toward al-'Aqabah port within the framework of the undeclared embargo the U.S. Navy patrolling the Straits of Tiran is enforcing at the entrance of al-'Aqabah Port.

Al-Qasim received a detailed memorandum from Tawfiq Qa'war, president of the Jordanian shipping agents association, including a report on the provocative operations of interception and searching of all cargo ships which are bound for the al-'Aqabah Port, and the size of the damages that this sector has sustained as a result of these measures.

The foreign minister promised to do his best on all levels and at all international and Arab fora to put an end to these practices and eliminate all the obstacles facing vessels bound for al-'Aqabah Port.

In the meantime, the interception of commercial vessels bound for al-'Aqabah Port continues at the Straits of Tiran.

Economist Challenges Official Loss Estimates

JN1011114390 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Nov 90 p 24

["Highlights" column by economist Dr. Fahd al-Fanik]

[Text] Other people and I have read last Thursday's [8 November] statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY—PETRA by Muhammad al-Sumadi, the Transportation Ministry secretary general, on Jordan's immense losses in the field of transportation, estimated at 290.7 million dinars. The use of a fraction in this figure gives the impression that the amount is accurate and not an arbitrary evaluation.

Officials have the right to calculate Jordan's losses pertaining to the Gulf crisis based on the worst circumstances and on the assumption that no alternative resources would be forthcoming and no ability foreseen to adapt to circumstances to reduce the losses. Neither do we have any interest in questioning these officials if they are presenting these estimates to certain international quarters with the aim of obtaining compensation, given the fact that if you demand $1 billion, you get only $100 million.

However, these huge estimates require a pause when they are addressed to citizens through the local press, because they warn of total destruction. These estimates may cause stagnation and deterioration and create adverse effects which will not benefit us in the least.

The Transportation Ministry secretary general says that the transportation sector contributes up to 12.2 percent of the Gross National Product [GNP]. This means that the annual income through this sector is about $300 million. How can we believe that the loss could reach 290.7 percent? Does this mean that the loss will consume 97 percent of the added value in this sector, leaving only 3 percent?

Unreasonable and unacceptable as they are, these estimates pose a greater problem. The alleged loss is not calculated over a full year's period, but from the outbreak of the Gulf crisis to the end of this year; that is, five months. The transportation sector's contribution to the GNP over this five month period amounts only to 125 millions dinars. How can we lose 290.7 million dinars from this amount? This means that the portion which will disappear from the transportation sector's product will be 233 percent.

The Transportation Ministry would have panicked us if it had claimed that the transportation sector would lose one-third or one-fourth of its income. If the Ministry wanted us to believe that the transportation sector lost 100 percent of its product, then it must tell us who will pay this sector 165.7 million dinars from the outbreak of the crisis until the end of this year so that the production of this sector might add up to zero over the five-month period.

There is no error in calculating Jordan's losses because of the Gulf crisis. However, if the GNP is about $3.5 billion annually, it would be unreasonable to say that the losses would be $4 billion in five months.

Five Frenchmen Attacked North of Beirut

NC1411182790 Paris AFP in English 1817 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Beirut, Nov 14 (AFP)—Unknown gunmen opened fire with machine guns late Wednesday [14 November] on a car carrying five Frenchmen north of here, wounding three of the passengers—one seriously—sources said.

Lucien Chayrouni, 34, an employee at the French embassy was seriously hurt with a shot to the head and rushed to hospital in the Christian suburbs, medical sources said, adding that his condition had stabilized.

France's Ambassador to Lebanon, Rene Ala, confirmed the incident but said that given the recent events in Lebanon, the Frenchmen were perhaps not targeted on account of their nationality.

The car was shot at by one or more assailants as it circulated in the al-Mukallis sector which is under Lebanese and Syrian army control, security sources said.

Renegade Christian military leader Michel 'Awn has been holed up in the French embassy since his defeat October 13 by a Syrian-led assault aimed at extending the Lebanese government's authority over the entire country.

The Syrians have accused Gen. 'Awn of high treason but France does not want him tried by Syrian authorities.

Two of the passengers were slightly wounded by the gunfire and one was briefly admitted to hospital but released soon after, medical sources said.

The shooting occurred a few hundred meters (yards) from a restaurant frequented by the French community residing in Lebanon. A restaurant employee said the five Frenchmen had been heading for his establishment for a meal.

Security sources said the car, which was heading for Bayt Miri further east, passed by the restaurant, made a half-turn and proceeded back towards the capital when the gunmen opened fire.

A Defense Ministry source said the incident was "minor," adding that the assailants were not Lebanese soldiers.

Developments in Withdrawals From Iqlim al-Tuffah

Palestinians Want Negotiations

NC1411131990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] The implementation of the Damascus agreement's second phase concerning Iqlim al-Tuffah has faltered. The process of the withdrawal of Amal and Hizballah weapons and armed men from the Iqlim, which was scheduled to take place this afternoon, has been suspended.

Zayd Wahbah, political leader of the pro-'Arafat Fatah Movement, has declared that the Palestinians who had entered [the Iqlim] to disengage Amal and Hizballah militants will not withdraw from their positions before negotiations have been held with the Lebanese Government on the future of relations between the two sides. REUTER cites Palestinian factions as saying that negotiations must be initiated to recognize the state of Palestine, to establish an official representation of the state of Palestine in Lebanon through an embassy, and to outline a formula for the Palestinian people's rights and duties in Lebanon.

The Palestinian faction's statement [as received] called for protecting the security of the [Palestinian] camps against Israeli attacks and rebuilding them; and for preserving the Palestinian people's rights to work, travel, conduct all forms of political, popular, and media action, and to integrate with the armed resistance against Israel.

Meanwhile, Shaykh Na'im Qasim, a Hizballah official, has said Hizballah insists on simultaneous withdrawals by all parties from the Iqlim.

The follow-up committee set up by the Damascus agreement which comprises representatives from Syria, Iran, the Amal Movement, and Hizballah, held a meeting at the Syrian observers office in al-Rumaylah this morning to discuss developments and ways to implement the remaining articles of the agreement.

'Arafat Said Causing Delay

LD1511112990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Representatives of the revolutionary movement of Lebanon's Hizballah and the Amal Movement held talks last night, in the presence of envoys from the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and Syria, on the conditions for releasing the two sides' detainees.

The Central News Unit reports the above and adds: The committee supervising the cease-fire between these two movements was also stationed along the contact line between the two sides in Iqlim al-Tuffah. This committee, set up in the wake of the Damascus Agreement signed between Amal and Hizballah in the presence of the representatives of Iran and Syria, is in charge of supervising the cease-fire implementation and giving a full report to the IRI's ambassador in Syria and to the commander of Syria's supervisory forces in Lebanon. This committee will today study the preliminary procedure of the plan for the release of prisoners from both sides, which is supposed to begin in two days' time. This is at a time when the program of deploying Lebanon's Army in various areas of Iqlim al-Tuffah is delayed, the reason for which is the refusal of [PLO leader] 'Arafat's forces to retreat from these areas.

Withdrawals To Begin 15 Nov

NC1511073390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] The follow-up committee charged with implementation of the Damascus agreement has toured the various combat lines in Iqlim al-Tuffah and met with Amal and

Hizballah officials in 'Arab Salim, Jarju', Jba', 'Ayn Qana, Kafr Fila, Kafr Milki, and Kafr Hatta.

The committee instructed both sides' officials to strictly abide by the cease-fire agreement and to be ready to implement the subsequent steps. These include reducing shows of force as a prelude to reopening roads and withdrawing gunmen.

Amal and Hizballah are expected to exchange prisoners tomorrow, and foodstuffs have been distributed to inhabitants. Work is under way to repair water pipes and power lines. Three corpses buried in Iqlim al-Tuffah will be removed today.

Yesterday, a meeting was held at the headquarters of the Syrian observers in al-Ramlah al-Bayda' attended by Colonel Ziyad, head of the Syrian observers' team in Lebanon, and Amal and Hizballah representatives. They discussed the means for withdrawing gunmen from the Iqlim villages within a few hours. The withdrawal process is expected to be completed on Monday [19 November] afternoon.

The higher committee of Iqlim al-Tuffah resumed its meetings yesterday to discuss recent developments in the Iqlim. The committee's representatives have requested a meeting with Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss, Army Commander General Emile Lahhud, and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon. They will discuss the course of events in the wake of reports about conditions and counterconditions regarding completing withdrawals from Iqlim al-Tuffah. The discussion will also touch on steps to facilitate the entry of Army units into the region.

Al-Musawi on Iranian Hostages, 'Arafat Forces

NC1511074590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 90 15 Nov 90

[Text] Brother Husayn al-Musawi [leader of the Islamic Amal Movement] has said that 'Arafat's group insists on remaining an obstacle to this [Amal-Hizballah] agreement. This group, he added, did not enter [Iqlim al-Tuffah] to stop the fighting but to achieve its goals. He noted that everyone must stand up to 'Arafat and his group appropriately and that the southerners and all Lebanese people must use pressure. He said that then this group will not be able to hold out but will withdraw.

Al-Musawi spoke about the Iranian hostages. He said: The Iranians were kidnapped at al-Barbarah roadblock in the area controlled by Samir Ja'ja'. Their fate must be clarified—whether they are dead or alive. He asked: If dead, where are their bodies? He pointed out that everyone should seek to release the Iranian hostages in order to free the Western hostages. America and Britain, he said, are required to press for the safety and handing over of the hostages to their relatives and to the Islamic Republic because this will contribute to the release of the foreign hostages.

Al-Musawi Links Western, Iranian Hostages

NC1411145090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] British Ambassador David Tathan discussed developments with Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry general secretary. After the meeting, Tathan commented on the hostage issue, saying: We are optimistic more than we were on previous occasions when it was said that the hostages would be released. He noted that matters are improving.

On the same issue, REUTER cited Islamic Amal leader Husayn al-Musawi as saying that, to attain the freedom of their hostages held in Lebanon, Britain and the United States must assist in securing the release of four Iranians [believed kidnapped by the Lebanese Forces]. REUTER added that a delegation representing the families of the four Iranians arrived in Beirut yesterday, met with several officials, and discussed their sons' fate.

Cabinet Defines Greater Beirut Boundaries

NC1411204290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Excerpts] After four hours of discussion, the Cabinet defined the boundaries of greater Beirut as follows: the Nahr al-Kalb river outlet, Nahr al-Kalb river basin, Darayya, al-Qulay'at, (Dayr Zir'aya), Biskinta, and (al-Za'rur) junction on the north; Sannin, Dayr Tahnish, al-Muruj, 'Ayn al-Zaytunah, al-Qa'qur, Zahiriyah, (Shifrin), Nahr Bayrut river basin, al-Mazra'ah, Dahr al-Wahsh, 'Alayh, Suq al-Gharb, Shimlan, and Qabr Shmun junction on the east; 'Aramun, al-Na'imah, Harat al-Na'imah, al-Damur, and the Nahr al-Damur outlet on the south; and on the west, the coastal area extending from Nahr al-Damur outlet in the south to the Nahr al-Kalb outlet in the north. This is in addition to the international highway extending to the Lebanese-Syrian borders.

The Cabinet discussed in particular the question of the funds deposited in the names of General Michel 'Awn, Brigadier General 'Isam Abu-Jamrah, and Brig. Gen. Edgar Ma'luf. After a study, the Cabinet decided to regard them as public funds. This is in addition to the funds which have been deposited in the name of their wives and funds deposited by public officials who worked under their authority after 23 September 1988. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent reported that the boundaries of greater Beirut were delineated following difficult negotiations in several places, particularly negotiations between Minister Walid Junblatt and Muhsin Dallul, member of the two-man ministerial committee, at Junblatt's house. Agreement was reached in this meeting to include 'Alayh and the western al-Shahhar region in the greater Beirut boundaries. Our correspondent adds that the Cabinet did not discuss the issue of military and security appointments to some sensitive positions as scheduled. This discussion was postponed until next week.

Radio Lists Greater Beirut Party Offices Closed

NC1411150190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] The Lebanese-Syrian Coordination Committee continues to take over offices from parties in the two al-Matn regions and B'abda. The following is a list of the party offices taken over by the Lebanese Army since the beginning of the implementation of the Greater Beirut Plan:

The Lebanese Forces' al-Wa'd [Promise] Party [of Elie Hubayqah] have turned over their offices in B'abda, al-Murayjah, Wadi Shahrur, Kafr Shima, al-Kahhalah, Furn al-Shubbak, al-Tahwitah, 'Arayya, al-Hazimiyah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Fayyadiyah, and al-Zalqa.

The Syrian Social Nationalist Party has turned over its offices in al-Zalqa, Bikfayya, al-Judaydah, Nabay, 'Awkar, Jall al-Dib, Bsalim, al-Furaykah, and Qurnat al-Hamra'.

Furthermore, the Army has taken over empty offices in Mazra'at Yashu', Qurnat Shahwan, and Bayt Shabab.

Security sources have explained that the Lebanese Forces [of Samir Ja'ja'] have not yet turned over any of their offices and have not removed any of their heavy-caliber weapons. The Lebanese Forces have informed the competent authorities that they will be ready to turn over their offices not later than 16 November.

Al-Hirawi Speaks to Lawyers About Greater Beirut

NC1311144590 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Address by President Ilyas al-Hirawi to a Lebanese Lawyers Association delegation in Beirut on 13 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Greater Beirut will be established soon. It will extend from Nahr al-Kalb to Nahr al-Damur, will include the two al-Matn regions, and will stretch as far as al-Biqa'. It will not be the first and final step, but will be followed by another step of finding a solution for all the militias in Lebanon. When we finish this, our Army will be in a position to impose law and order over all Lebanese territory.

After that, we have a duty toward our beloved south. This duty dictates that we should ask all our friends and brothers to help us implement UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for sending our Army to the south. This will not be to declare war on anyone but to establish peace in a dear part of our homeland. This will be done in cooperation with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. I believe that anyone who desires good and peace can achieve it if his intentions are sincere.

Henceforth, we will not allow any arms except those held by the Lebanese state. We will not accept any bilateral or multilateral agreements among any parties in Lebanon. We will not accept ministates and areas controlled by some groups and other areas controlled by other groups. [passage omitted]

In the past, we lacked the power to make decisions. Thank God, we now have the power to make decisions. I am prepared to make my decision, even if it costs me my life while trying to implement it. [passage omitted]

Claim Regarding 'Awn's Partial Paralysis Reported

NC1511094690 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 12 Nov 90 p 7

[Text] Unusually, a group of doctors has been observed to enter and leave the French Embassy headquarters in Mar Taqla. This indicates that there is a "serious" case at the embassy that requires the assistance of these doctors in view of the fact that the "serious" case cannot be taken to the hospital.

The "serious" case has not been identified, but it has been reiterated that half of General Michel 'Awn's body is paralyzed.

Sources Say Ja'ja' Will Visit Damascus

NC1411113090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Media sources said today that the meeting which was held in Ghadrat between Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon] and Samir Ja'ja' dealt with the Lebanese Forces' future relations with legitimacy. The sources asserted that Ja'ja' will visit Damascus after greater Beirut has been established and before the a new government is formed.

Sources on Dispute Over Next Security Director

NC1511091090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Ministerial sources have affirmed that the Cabinet has prepared a list of all vacant grade-one posts so as to deal with them following the completion of the Greater Beirut Plan, according to an undeclared decision adopted by the Cabinet. The sources said that following the completion of the Greater Beirut Plan, a new government will be formed, comprehensive appointments will be made, and deputies will be appointed simultaneously.

Meanwhile, the sources pointed out that a dispute over filling the post of director general of public security continues. Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni insists that the post be filled by a Shiite, while President al-Hirawi and some ministers insist on appointing Engineer Raymond Rufayil to the post. The sources said that an agreement had been reached between President al-Hirawi and Syrian officials on Rufayil's appointment and that the continuing dispute over the post precluded discussing the matter yesterday.

AL-DIYAR cites a minister who opposes the appointment of a Shiite to the post of director general of public security as saying that if this logic continues, we can reappointment the incumbent director general.

AFP on Hizballah Presence in Ba'labakk

NC1411082490 Paris AFP in English 1800 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Ba'labakk, Lebanon, Nov 13 (AFP)—The Iranian-backed Hizballah movement has strengthened its presence in this eastern Lebanon town after evacuating its militants from the southern suburbs of Beirut, correspondents here said. For the first time since their deployment here in 1982, the Muslim fundamentalist militants are patrolling the streets of this Syrian-controlled town with their weapons in three-car convoys.

They have also forced their way into private homes to check if the inhabitants were breaking a Muslim ban on alcohol consumption. The militia has also detained three male hairdressers because they continued to practice their job in defiance of a Hizballah-imposed ban on male hairdressers.

Residents are concerned that Hizballah, which released their hairdressers after making them promise to give up their trade, will issue new bans affecting other jobs. Pro-Syrian secular groups have reportedly sought assurances with the Syrian army command in the region that they will not have to bend to Hizballah rule and were told that the Syrian troops would continue to guarantee security.

These measures coincided with the evacuation of Hizballah militants from Beirut's southern suburbs in compliance with a government decision to end militia rule in the capital to place it under the control of the regular army.

Hizballah on Monday [12 November] announced it had completed its evacuation from the southern suburbs and dispatched its militants and arsenal towards positions facing Israel in southern Lebanon. According to various estimates, Hizballah is the most powerful militia in the Ba'labakk region and can mobilise up to 20,000 armed supporters, including several thousand militiamen.

Statistics on 'Terrorist' Attacks From South

TA0811162390 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Nov 90 p 2

[Report by army affairs correspondent On Levi]

[Text] Since January 1990 there has been a steep decline in terrorist activity in southern Lebanon. So reported senior Army sources during a tour of southern Lebanon by army affairs correspondents. Since January of this year, there has been an average of 13 incidents per month, compared with an average of 60 incidents per month in 1988.

The sources added that September 1990 was the quietest month since September 1985: This September there were only eight incidents, compared to 40 incidents in September 1989, and 56 incidents in September 1988. Last year there was a marked drop in the number of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers who were injured in clashes with terrorists. One IDF soldier was killed this year, while the SLA suffered one fatality and one slight injury.

The IDF attributes the drop in the number of incidents to the struggle between the Amal and Hizballah organizations and to the battles between the various Palestinian terror groups. Yasir 'Arafat's decision to drop out of the cycle of terrorist attacks against Israel and to try to reach the negotiations table also constituted a significant factor in reducing the scope of terrorist activity. The Army sources estimated that in 1988 the terrorist operations carried out by 'Arafat's organization amounted to 46 percent of the total number of attacks carried out by the Palestinian terror groups, and now we no longer witness any incidents in which 'Arafat's men take part.

The sources reported that "the smart tactics adopted by the IDF and the SLA, which are employed with greater forethought, and improvements in the equipment and measures used to cover the territory day and night, are the main reasons behind our enhanced capability. Over the past two years the residents of the security zone have been cooperating with the IDF and SLA forces, a fact that has led to the capture of 18 terror squads in the area even before they had the chance to act."

The sources explained that the reasons for the cooperation of the local residents of the security zone—Shiites, Christians, and Druze—stem from the relatively high level of safety the IDF and the SLA can guarantee them, as well as the economic security and reasonably comfortable standard of living to which they have become accustomed.

No significant changes have been noted in the characteristics of the terror attacks from southern Lebanon over the past year. The most common type of incident is the planting of explosive charges and mines, and after that, in the order of frequency, the shooting of light weapons, firing of katyusha rockets, attacks on patrols, and car bombs. The bulk of the terrorist activity in southern Lebanon is carried out by the Shiite organizations, Amal and Hizballah, who account for 46 percent of the total number of attacks. The left-wing organizations perpetrated approximately 17 percent of the total number of attacks. The Palestinian groups are responsible for about 11 percent of the attacks, and no organization claimed responsibility for 27 percent of the incidents.

"The IDF and the SLA have foiled 18 infiltration attempts this year by squads on their way to carry out terrorist attacks against Israeli targets. Among the squads intercepted were nine Palestinian squads, six belonging to left-wing organizations, and three Shiite squads. In the course of clashes with SLA forces, 84 terrorists have been killed, 32 terrorists have been injured, and six others were taken prisoner.

President Mubarak Arrives in Damascus 14 Nov

NC1411140290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, 14 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Damascus this afternoon on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. President Mubarak and the accompanying delegation were received by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad at Damascus International Airport.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN1411184490 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, 14 Nov (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak resumed their talks at 1730 today in a closed meeting at the Presidential Palace.

Talks dealt with the situation in the region, the Gulf crisis, and efforts to deal with it. Talks also centered on bilateral relations and the current steps to strengthen them and continue developing them.

Holds Second Closed Meeting

JN1511125090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak resumed their talks in a closed meeting at the presidential palace at noon today.

The two presidents held two meetings yesterday, one of which was a closed, and discussed the situation in the region, the Gulf crisis, and the efforts to solve it. They also discussed bilateral relations and current steps to strengthen and promote them further.

Al-Zu'bi, Egyptian Minister Discuss Cooperation

JN1511114590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1100 today Dr. Maurice Makramallah, Egyptian minister of international cooperation, and members of his delegation.

The talks concerned Syrian and Egyptian steps in various fields to achieve cooperation and integration, the meetings of the preparatory committees of the Higher Syrian-Egyptian Joint Committee, and topics related to the agreements being prepared.

Al-Asad, Mubarak Talks 'Focus' of Arab Attention

JN1411161190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1235 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] During bad times and good, the nation always looks forward to a meeting between Syria and Egypt and searches for the role of Syria and Egypt to overcome crises and to correct the Arab course whenever there is a deviation. Syria and Egypt have always been so, and this is why the nation has always had confidence in Syria and Egypt at every stage of history. When they meet, Syria and Egypt reinforce the pan-Arab fact that confirms the unity of the nation and destiny, no matter how gloomy the Arab situation is and regardless of the dangers to the region. When Syria and Egypt meet, an effective Arab force, which has defended the Arab homeland and made dear sacrifices in blood and men for the sake of the Arabs' present and future, also comes together. If the Arab situation witnessed divisions, rifts, and differences in the past decade, then this is because there was estrangement between Syria and Egypt, and because Syria and Egypt—with their joint effectiveness, views, and thinking—were outside the scene. When rapprochement was achieved between Syria and Egypt, and when the time became ripe to redraw the Arab scene in the spirit of solidarity, unity, and the closing of ranks, there were some people who disrupted this opportunity and disturbed the picture once again. And there has been the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. In the midst of this crisis, Syria and Egypt said one word and adopted a joint stand. They derived their word and stand from their pan-Arab affiliation and the history of their long struggle for the sake of the nation and in the interest of Arabs in all Arab countries. In this crisis, the joint Syrian-Egyptian stand has continued to be the focus of the Arabs' attention in search of the solution that would spare the nation the destruction that is threatening it and save Iraq and the Iraqi people from paying a heavy price as a result of an irresponsible decision that has put Iraq and the entire nation face to face with the worst possibilities.

In light of this, the meeting between leader al-Asad and President Mubarak in Damascus today is the focus of all Arabs' attention, now that the storms are blowing stronger against the region where only the drums of war are heard and since the Iraqi rulers became intransigent and obstinate; turned a deaf ear to all voices of reason, wisdom, and justice; and after they turned Iraq and its people into a victim as a result of a mistake, which is probably the greatest mistake against Arabs and Arabism in modern history.

The Damascus summit today between leaders Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak, with all that it means in terms of further promoting Syrian-Egyptian ties and entrenching the joint position and views, is the summit on which the Arabs pin their hopes to overcome the crisis and to correct the Arab course after it was affected by all this deviation.

Yugoslavia's Loncar Arrives in Damascus 14 Nov

Makes Statement

JN1511091490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus—Budimir Loncar, Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs, arrived in Damascus this

evening. He was received at Damascus international airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. He was also received by the director of the East Europe Department, a number of Foreign Ministry officials, the Yugoslav ambassador in Damascus, and embassy staff.

Mr. Loncar made a statement to a SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY correspondent in which he explained that this visit falls within the framework of exchanging views between Yugoslavia and Syria on bilateral relations and the current international situation, particularly in the Arab Gulf region and the Middle East. He said discussions will also deal with the Nonaligned Movement's activities, since Yugoslavia chairs the current term of the movement.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN1511092190 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, 15 Nov (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received at 0930 today Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and SFRY Ambassador in Damascus Radmilo Trojanovic. Talks centered on the Gulf crisis, the activities of the Nonaligned Movement, and bilateral relations.

Minister Discusses Economic Issues With Soviets

JN1411121090 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1640 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Damascus, 13 Nov (SANA)—Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, has met with a Soviet economic delegation headed by Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy minister of foreign economic relations, currently visiting Syria.

They reviewed the development of economic cooperation and achievements in the various agreements between the two countries. They also discussed some technical issues to activate cooperation, especially in the fields of energy, gas, oil, dams, and electrical supplies, and ways to accomplish this in light of current economic developments.

Papers on Lebanese Accord, Rifts Caused by Iraq

JN1411115790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Nov 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Why the Zionist Threats?" AL-THAWRAH says: It is only natural that Israel should stand against the Plan for Greater Beirut and try to create obstacles and obstructions that would prevent the perfect completion of the plan. This is because Israel believes such a plan will certainly not be in the interest of its schemes and aggressive objectives. For, since the declaration of the Greater Beirut Plan, Israel has initiated feverish action to cast doubt on the move and belittle its importance. Zionist officials, moreover, have begun to make provocative statements that confirm their determination to prevent a solution and accord in Lebanon, as well as their determination to employ all means to keep the country captive to violence and fruitless, mad fighting.

The paper goes on to say: If Israel does not want Lebanon to enjoy continued safety and stability in a move to stir up sedition and kindle conflicts, and to prevent a solution and accord, it is because Israel believes this will give it enough room to further entrench its occupation of the south and usurp water resources, transforming it into a colony for Falasha Jews.

The paper concludes: Of course, recent developments have highlighted that Lebanon will not remain a hotbed for Israel and its assistants, and that it will not be the weak link easy to penetrate and control. The Lebanese Government is serious in its endeavor to liberate the south and to deliver it from the vices of the Zionist invaders. The will of the Lebanese will have to triumph in the end, thanks to Syria's unlimited support and backing. Lebanon will inevitably recover the south and complete its march and restore its genuine Arab face.

In an editorial under the headline "Wrong and Virtue," TISHRIN says: Now that 100 days have passed since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, it has become possible to see the destructive results of this action more clearly, once the storms have abated, misleading clouds scattered, and the wound within the Arab body has grown cooler.

The pain and suffering will help restore awareness and clear vision. Vanity, arrogance, and posturing will do no good. Neither will they cloak the fact that the Palestine question has been afflicted by a grave strategic setback, thanks to this invasion.

The paper goes on to say: Under the umbrella of the Iraqi invasion, the Israeli Government stepped up suppression and terrorism in the occupied territories and continued to commit one massacre after another in order to destroy the intifadah. It has also not refrained from desecrating holy places. Despite all this, and despite the increasing barbarity of Zionist terrorism, international attention to this terrorism has receded and the extent of international pressure on Israel has also abated.

The paper concludes: There is another phenomenon that cannot be overlooked; that is, the deep crack caused by the Iraqi invasion in Arab ranks and Arab solidarity.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Greets India's New Prime Minister

LD1211071190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0510 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 11, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] today sent a message of congratulation to New Delhi, addressed to Chandra Shekhar, on the occasion of his election as prime minister of the Republic of India.

In the message, besides extending sincere felicitations, hope has been expressed on the further expansion and consolidation of traditional friendship and mutual beneficial cooperations between the peoples of the RA and that of the Republic of India, which have been emerged successfully from the ordeal of the time and are based on the principles of peaceful co-existence and policy of non-alignment as well as in the interest of the peoples of the two countries and ensurance of peace in the region and in the world as a whole.

Meanwhile, the further socio-economic development of the Republic of India and up-grading the living standard of the Indian people under the leadership of its new premier has also been wished in the message.

According to another report, Fazl Haq Khaliqyar prime minister of the RA has also sent today a similar message addressed to Chandra Shekhar on the same occasion.

In the message the vital role of the Republic of India for the ensurance of peace and security in the region, particularly the peaceful solution of the issue of Afghanistan has been extolled.

USSR Delivers Two Airliners to Ariana Air

LD1211174190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Excerpts] Two passenger YAK-40 aircraft, the free assistance of the Soviet Union, were handed over to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism of the Republic of Afghanistan today during a ceremony at Kabul International Airport.

The BIA reports that the documents of the mentioned aircraft were handed over to Dr. Ahmad Kabir Amani, first deputy civil aviation and tourism minister, and later to Ghulam Muhammad Menayar, head of the Ariana Afghan Airlines, by (Arnov), representative of Aeroflot, in the presence of the leadership of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, the executive board, a number of personnel of the Ariana Afghan Airline [name indistinct], deputy-ambassador of the Soviet Embassy for economic affairs, and a number of the staff of that embassy. [passage omitted]

The aircraft, which have the capacity of 32 and 27 passenger each, will be used by Ariana Afghan Airlines for internal flights and will facilitate the transportation of our compatriots, especially our returnees compatriots, to their provinces. One of the aircraft, in addition to passenger transportation, has the capacity to carry two tonnes of freight.

Relations Praised on Soviet National Day

LD0911064890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0425 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] Kabul, Nov 8, BAKHTAR—The tradition of friendship between the Afghan and Soviet peoples now continues in the shape of all out strengthening of the friendly relations and mutually benificial cooperation, says an article published by daily AYAM today on the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

The Afghan people remember that despite of serious hardships, the Soviet Union has constantly been sending us essential goods at a time when our people were threathened by the extremist blockade with death. Simultaneously, Soviet extensive diplomatic activities at international level is a major element in changing international atmosphere in the interests of ending war and establishing peace in Afghanistan, the article adds.

Now when the international tense climate is easing gradually in regard to Afghanistan and grounds have been paved for a peaceful settlement of the Afghan issue and an intra-Afghan dialogue, despite resistance by the warmongering minority circles, the pecularities of the new phase of the Afghan-Soviet ties are also getting clearer.

Further consolidation of the Afghan-Soviet friendly ties and mutual cooperation above all serves, as a key factor, for establishment of peace in the region and Afghanistan.

The USSR is the major donor in the UN Salam program for rehabiliation of our country. The sooner we achieve peace, the earlier international cooperation for rehabilitation of Afghanistan could be rested on a balanced and serious foundation, it says.

The tendency of the Afghan side in relation to the bilateral cooperation to get a mutually benificial character now finds its practical expression. The Afghans hold the established tradition of the Afghan-Soviet friendship in high esteem. The Afghan people pursue with interest the process of peristroyka in the Soviet Union under the leadership of the well-known man of peace, Mikhail Gorbachev, and with the Soviet greater successes at the present destiny-making moments, the article concludes.

Clashes Reported Among 'Extremist' Groups

LD1111154990 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Thirteen people from the extremist groups of Gulbuddin and Mawlawi Muhammad Nabik were killed in the sub-district of Jelriz, Vardak Province in the

course of armed clashes took place among them. The BAKHTAR military section reports that as a result of these clashes, which stem from internal discord and disputes over the distribution of goods stolen from the people, a number of men of these groups were also injured.

Two members of the extremist groups of Gulbuddin were killed as a result of internal clashes that took place among the groups of Farid and Mawlana Sadiq, head and deputy head of this group in Kapisa Province. The BAKHTAR military section reports that the clashes took place when Farid wanted to collect heavy weapons from groups supported by Mawlana Sadiq and to disarm a group of his supporters, led by Jamaluddin, which was operating in some parts of Golestan District, Kapisa Province. In the course of these clashes a local person was also martyred. These clashes are still continuing among the hostile groups.

Heavy clashes which began the day before yesterday in the village of (Parwa), Alingar District, Laghman Province among the extremist groups of Gulbuddin and Mawlawi Nabi are continuing. The BAKHTAR military section reports that as a result of these clashes three members of the extremist group of Gulbuddin were killed and four persons from the hostile groups were injured. In the course of these clashes two 20-man groups of Mawlawi Nabi were disarmed by a rival group and a headquarters of the extremist group of Gulbuddin was captured by groups attached to Mawlawi Nabi. Also, as a result of heavy weapons and missile fire, considerable financial losses were inflicted on the local people.

Bangladesh

Ershad Travels to Tokyo for Enthronement

Departs 9 Nov

BK1011014190 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Nov 90

[Text] President Ershad left Dhaka Friday morning for Tokyo to attend the enthronement ceremony of the emperor of Japan. The president was accompanied by first lady Begum Raushan Ershad and Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan. The ceremonies of accession to the throne of Emperor Akihito will begin at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on Monday.

During his stay in Japan, President Ershad will have talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on bilateral, regional, and international issues. Japan is the single largest donor nation for Bangladesh. The talks are expected to focus on greater cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the economic fields. Besides, the president will meet the world leaders coming to the Japanese capital to attend the ceremony. He is expected to discuss with the attending heads of state and government the current standoff in the Gulf and the global political and economic scenario. The president will attend other functions, including one arranged by the Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Association. The president is also expected to meet the representatives of the Japanese investors and other forums. He is likely to return home on the 14th of this month.

Meets Indian President

BK1211125990 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] President Ershad called on the Indian president, Venkataraman, in Tokyo Monday [12 November] morning. They discussed, among other topics, the impact of Gulf crisis. The Indian president is understood to have assured the Bangladesh president that change in the government in India will not bring any change in New Delhi's policy of seeking close and friendly relations with its neighbors.

Returns From Tokyo 14 Nov

BK1511054090 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] President Ershad returned to Dhaka last night after attending the enthronement ceremony of Japanese Emperor Akihito in Tokyo. President Ershad was received at Zia International Airport by Vice President Moudud Ahmed. Prime Minister Qazi Zafar Ahmed, Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzam Hussain, ministers, chiefs of three services and members of the diplomatic corps were also present at the airport.

Turkish President Stops En Route to Tokyo

BK1111131490 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] Turkish President Turgut Ozal had a brief stopover at the Zia International Airport in Dhaka this morning on his way to Tokyo for attending the enthronement ceremony of the Japanese Emperor Akihito. Vice President Moudud Ahmed received the Turkish president at the airport. Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and the Turkish ambassador in Bangladesh were also present.

During the half an hour stopover, Mr. Ozal and Mr. Moudud Ahmed discussed matters of mutual and bilateral interests. The vice president thanked the Turkish president for his personal initiative and interest for repatriating the stranded Bangladeshis in Turkey at the start of the Gulf crisis.

Ershad Greets New Indian Prime Minister

BK1011125190 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] President Ershad has feliciated Mr. Chandra Shekhar on his assumption of the office of the prime minister of India. In a message, he expressed the confidence that during Mr. Chandra Shekhar's tenure of office, the friendly relations between the two neighboring

countries will be further strengthened and developed to the mutual benefit of the two peoples. The president wished Premier Chandra Shekhar success and the friendly people of India continued peace, progress, and prosperity.

Dhaka 'Paralyzed' by Strike; Marchers Charged

BK1011090690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0856 GMT 10 Nov 90

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 10 (AFP)—Police baton-charged two anti- government marches here Saturday, leaving at least 30 injured, as a dawn-to-dusk strike called by opposition parties paralysed Bangladesh's capital. Attackers hurled homemade bombs at a third march, injuring one activist in the leg, witnesses said. They quoted opposition leaders as blaming supporters of the ruling Jatiya Party for the attack.

Several homemade bombs went off near the downtown high-security Secretariat Complex, as ministers were seen rushing to their offices under police escort. At least one activist was arrested when police baton-charged one of the marches, in the Kawran Bazaar area.

Armed police and paramilitarty forces patrolled the city streets in trucks and the ministers' enclave at Minto Road was also under heavy guard following an attack on the home of Information Minister Mizanur Rahman Shelley. The opposition was marking the third anniversary of its 1987 "Dhaka seige" program, when an anti-government campaign nearly toppled President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Small processions of opposition parties marched through Dhaka's streets under police escort and leaders addressed impromptu rallies in several areas. In southeastern port city of Chittagong, roads were empty and train services were disrupted, residents said by telephone.

Residents in Southern Khulna said life was completely paralysed but there were no reports of violence so far. Opposition activists were chased by police after they set off several homemade bombs in front of the office of the Rajshahi District mayor, residents said.

The main opposition groups, led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed's Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Begum Khaleda Zia, have been trying to oust Mr. Ershad since he seized power in a 1982 military coup. The opposition has called for free and fair elections to be held under neutral caretaker government.

Members of the All Party Students Unity (APSU), at a rally in front of the National Press Club, denounced President Ershad and repeatedly hit his picture with a sandal. The APSU, which comprises student wings of opposition political parties, is playing a major role in the ongoing campaign. Three leaders of the leftist Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal were arrested by police late Friday, party sources said Saturday. No explanation for their arrest was provided.

Opposition Urged To Shun Path Of Violence

BK1411162490 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Vice President Moudud Ahmed has called upon the opposition to shun the path of violence and destruction and come for dialogue for the constitutional settlement of all national issues. Addressing a public rally in Dhaka today, he said the people have rejected the negative politics followed by the opposition parties (?which) have no positive program for the nation and have been isolated from the people. The vice president hoped the Constitution continuity will have to be protected at any cost. [sentence as heard] The rally was also addressed by Prime Minister Qazi Zafar Ahmed and Deputy Prime Minister and Jatiya Party Secretary General Shah Moazzam Hussain.

India

Shekhar Remarks on Problems Facing Country

BK1411150690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has sought the cooperation of all concerned to solve the problems facing the country. Addressing the first meeting of the Janata Dal-S [Socialist] parliamentary party in New Delhi today, he said his government will not be vindictive to its political opponents and the bureaucracy, but it will be firm to solve the country's problems.

The prime minister apprised the members of the political situation in the country and said it was not of their making and they had absolutely no control over it. He said the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] withdrew its support to the government and there was no alternative but either to go for mid-term polls or to form a government.

The prime minister said there was a demand for the change of leadership within the Janata Dal, but all efforts at that direction failed. Had Mr. V.P. Singh resigned at that time, a lot of bloodshed at Ayodhya could have been avoided and also the split in the party.

The prime minister appreciated the cooperation being extended by the Congress-I and its support to the government was totally unconditional. The deputy prime minister, who also addressed the party, said that in spite of his best efforts, the split in the Janata Dal could not be avoided.

More on Shekhar Remarks

BK1411162590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Excerpts] The prime minister has sought the cooperation of all concerned to solve the problems facing the country. Addressing the first meeting of the Janata Dal-S [Socialist] parliamentary party in New Delhi today, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said while his government will not be

vindictive to its political opponents and bureaucracy, it will show firmness in solving the problems faced by the country. [passage omitted]

He said the majority of the members in the Lok Sabha did not want a mid-term poll because caste and communal edges had been sharpened to such an extent that free and fair elections were not possible. Referring to the atmosphere of hatred and distrust in the country, the prime minister said love and affection could only provide a solution at present. He appealed to the people to maintain communal harmony in the interest of the country. He drew attention of the members about the grave situation in Punjab, Assam, and Jammu and Kashmir. He also mentioned about the grim economic situation facing the country in the context of the Gulf crisis.

The prime minister appreciated the cooperation being extended by the Congress-I and said its support to the government is totally unconditional.

About India's relations with Pakistan, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said New Delhi will emphasize upon the new government in Islamabad that there is need for better cooperation for peace and harmony in the area. He said the people of both the countries are poor and our effort should be to end confrontation and help in bringing about the uplift of our people.

He also appealed to the people in the country and the non-resident Indians abroad to come forward to help the motherland in its hour of crisis. The deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, who also addressed the meeting, said in spite of his best efforts, the split in the Janata Dal could not be avoided.

A party spokesman told newsmen that 67 members, including 58 from the Lok Sabha, attended the meeting. Five Lok Sabha members from Uttar Pradesh could not attend the meeting because of crisis in the state legislature party.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar had an hour-long meeting with the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. Briefing newsmen, a Congress-I spokesman, Mr. M.J. Akbar, said the two leaders mainly discussed the state of the economy. The spokesman said the economy is in a very bad shape because of the mismanagement of the V.P. Singh government. Mr. Akbar accused the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad, World Hindu Council] of launching a program of provocation which has directly instigated riots in some parts of the country.

Sikhs, Muslims Clash With Hindus in Delhi

V.P. Singh Condemns Clashes

BK1411145290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] The former prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has condemned the desecration of holy books in Jullundur and Delhi and described it as a conspiracy to create a communal divide. In a statement in New Delhi, he appealed to everyone not to let any anti-national activity succeed.

At least two persons were killed and 24 injured, including eight policemen, in clashes between two groups in Sadar Bazaar area in old Delhi this afternoon. The trouble started when a procession passing through the area indulged in stone pelting and violence. A police spokesman said that they had to resort to firing when tear gassing failed to control the mob. He said both the deaths occurred because of stabbing.

In Punjab, police fired in the air today to disperse two clashing groups in Jullundur city. Seven persons were injured in the clash. The curfew imposed in the city after yesterday's violent incidents still continues.

Clashes in Delhi, Jullundur

BK1511080290 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 15 Nov 90

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] Parts of Old Delhi have been under overnight curfew following yesterday's intercommunal clashes involving Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs in which at least five people were killed. Police used tear gas and opened fire on the rioters. As Chris Nuttel reports, it is for the first time Sikhs are known to have become involved in the crisis over plans to build a Hindu temple on the site of a mosque at Aydohya in northern India.

[Begin Nuttel recording] Fighting is reported to have broken out after Hindus throwing stones disrupted a march in the walled city of Old Delhi by Muslims and Sikhs. They have been calling for unity among their minority communities in what is thought to be the first example of Sikhs and Muslims getting together for protection in India's crisis of religious and communal unrest. Armed police used tear gas and then opened fire as rioters set ablaze shops, houses, and cars. Three of the dead have been knived while the other two have been shot. Police and members of all three communities carried out shootings, stabbings, and arson attacks. It was not clear whether anyone had died in the police firing.

The trouble broke out hours after emotions were inflamed when a Sikh holy book was burned by unidentified men in a temple in another part of Delhi. The walled city has been tense ever since Mr. L.K. Advani, the leader of the Hindu fundamentalist party, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], staged a chariot ride through it as part of his campaign to force the building of the Hindu temple at Ayodhya in northern India. More than 2,000 armed police were deployed within the walled city after that and 1,000 more have now been sent in. [end recording]

Indefinite Curfew in Delhi

BK1511053690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] In Delhi, an indefinite curfew was imposed last night in police station areas of Sadar Bazaar and Barahindurao following group clashes. Five persons were killed and 28 injured, including eight policemen.

As reported earlier, the trouble started when a procession passing through Sadar Bazaar area indulged in stone pelting and violence. The police resorted to firing when tear gassing failed to control the mob. The police have clarified that all the five deaths occurred because of stabbing and not by police firing. A few stray incidents of violence were reported even after midnight. Police patrolling has been intensified in the affected areas.

The lieutenant governor of Delhi, Mr. Arjun Singh, has announced an exgratia payment of 1 lakh rupees each to the next of kin of the deseased and 10,000 each to the seriously injured in the violence. He said some compensation will also be given to those whose property has been damaged in the incidents.

Delhi 'Under Control'

BK1511092790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] The situation in the curfew-bound Sadar Bazaar and Bara Hindu Rao police station areas in Delhi is fully under control. A police spokesman told our correspondent that 20 companies of police and paramilitary forces are patrolling the affected areas. Twenty police control room vans have also been deployed. The spokesman said last night a meeting was held of the local elders with the lieutenant governor and senior police officials to defuse the situation. According to police, the death toll in yesterday's group clashes has gone up to six. Thirty people have been injured. Tension also prevailed in some West Delhi areas after some children pelted stones on buses. Four companies of Delhi armed police were immediately rushed to the area to maintain peace.

The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has demanded a high-level inquiry into incidents which led to violence in some parts of Delhi. In a statement in New Delhi today, it said that there is a deep-rooted conspiracy behind the incidents and stern measures should be taken to prevent such a situation in future.

Nationals Returning From Kuwait Assisted

BK1411162990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] The government is providing all facilities to Indian nationals coming back to the country from Kuwait. A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that all travel and transit arrangements are being looked after by Indian Embassy officials.

Parties Discuss Strategy for Confidence Vote

BK1511091290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] Political parties have begun consultations in New Delhi on the strategy to be adopted by them in tomorrow's special sesion of the Lok Sabha when the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, will seek a vote of confidence. Senior leaders of the Janata Dal are having a meeting at the party headquarters to discuss their strategy. The meeting is being attended, among others, by Mr. V.P. Singh, Mr. Bommai, Mr. Ajit Singh, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, Mr. Sharad Yadav, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, and others. The parliamentary party of the Janata Dal will later meet this evening.

Left parties are also meeting this evening to discuss about their stand. The CPI [Communist Party of India] leader, Mr. Farooqi, told our correspondent that the left parties would oppose the motion, as the Congress-I engineered the split in the Janata Dal and installed its proxy government.

The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. M.J. Akbar, told our correspondent that the party will carry out its commitment to the Chandra Shekhar government by supporting the motion. He said the split in the Janata Dal is their own doing and the Congress-I has nothing to do with it. He said the party had already announced that it would support any leader other than Mr. V.P. Singh and that the Janata Dal should not have any truck with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. He said the Janata Dal-S led by Mr. Chandra Shekhar fulfilled both the conditions and, therefore, the Congress-I extended its support to him.

The BJP general secretary, Mr. Kedarnath Sahni, has said that his party, as announced earlier, would oppose the motion. He said that Mr. Chandra Shekhar does not have the mandate of people as the voting in the last general election was against the Congress-I.

Our correspondent says tomorrow's voting on the one-line confidence motion, to be moved by Mr. Chandra Shekhar, will be on the expected lines with the Congress-I and its allies voting in favor and Janata Dal, BJP, and left parties against the motion. The Janata Dal-S has claimed the support of about 68 MP's [members of parliament].

Congress-I Member Yadav Resigns From Party

BK1511110290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] The chairman of the Center for Social Justice and former MP [member of parliament], Mr. Chandrajit Yadav, has resigned from the Congress-I. He told a press conference in New Delhi today that his action is in protest against what he called the anti-Mandal [Mandal Commission report on job reservations] attitude adopted by the Congress-I. He also expressed his reservations over the Congress-I's support to the Chandra Shekhar government, which, he said, is a nonentity and unstable government. He also expressed his support to

Mr. V.P. Singh for what he called courageously implementing the Mandal Commission report.

Police Kill Assam Tribal 'Extremists'

BK1511110190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 15 Nov 90

[Text] In Assam, two Bodo [tribal] extremists were killed in an exchange of fire with police at Govindigaon Village in Barpeta District. Official reports received at Guwahati said that a group of Bodo extremists ambushed and opened fire on a police patrolling party. The police returned the fire, as a result of which two extremists died on the spot. A huge amount of arms and ammunition has been recovered from the site of the incident. Security arrangements in the area have been tightened.

Iran

Khamene'i Praises Velayati for Iraq Peace Process

LD1411102590 Tehran IRNA in English 0952 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Wednesday praised efforts of Foreign Ministry officials in advancing Iran-Iraq peace process and President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his determining and outstanding role in this connection.

The leader in a letter to Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati before his departure for Baghdad Wednesday expressed sincere appreciation for his efforts on settlement of Iran-Iraq disputes.

Velayati heading a delegation left for the Iraqi capital Wednesday morning to follow up the Tehran-Baghdad talks on the implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598 and to discuss mutual ties.

"Now that you are off to Baghdad after succeeding in your comprehensive and vigorous efforts in pushing forward the peace process with Iraq and safeguarding the legitimate rights of the Iranian nation, I deem it necessary to express my gratitude and appreciation to each and every one of the respected brethren at the Foreign Ministry who through their wise and sincere efforts and initiatives served their nation and country in a crucial and sensitive juncture of the Iranian history," said the message.

The leader also praised the president for his "superb and determining role.

Yazdi Speaks on Corruption to Judiciary Meeting

LD1111195190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] In today's meeting with judiciary officials, Mr. Yazdi, head of the judiciary branch, stressed that decisive action must be taken by the state judiciary system against administrative corruption. The judiciary head, expressing satisfaction with his own efforts toward the peaceful resolution of the Persian Gulf crisis, also expressed hope that the crisis will be resolved without bloodshed and the Persian Gulf region will be saved from any disaster.

Mr. Yazdi, referring to the crimes against Muslims and their sanctities in the occupied territories by the occupying regime in Jerusalem, said: With the showing [of a film] depicting examples of the usurper's crimes in the occupied territories to the Security Council session which distressed the members, we ask the Security Council members not to be content with their [show of] distress and, at the least, deal with this cancerous tumor the same as they reacted to the Persian Gulf crisis, where they have issued more than 10 resolutions so far.

The head of the judiciary, during the same meeting after hearing a report by the judicial team dispatched to Sistan va Baluchestan Province, stressed the need for strengthening the judiciary system there and the need for prompt and precise handling of the judicial problems of that province's people.

Yemeni Official, Besharati Discuss Ties, Gulf Relations To Expand

LD1311195190 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1606 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Shafi Muhsin, Yemeni deputy foreign minister, met Mr. Besharati, his Iranian counterpart, this afternoon. He explained his country's policies concerning the crisis in the region.

He described the trip to Tehran by himself and an accompanying delegation as the preliminary stage for the formation of a joint economic commission and a fundamental step towards the expansion of relations between the two brother nations. Mr. Besharati, for his part, welcomed the new steps being taken for the expansion of bilateral ties between Iran and Yemen.

Received by Karrubi

LD1411115290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Dr. Shafi Muhsin, the deputy foreign minister of Yemen, met and held talks with Mr. Karrubi, the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles this morning.

In this meeting, which was also attended by Mr. Besharati, the deputy foreign minister of our country, Dr. Shafi Muhsin pointed to the brotherly relations between the two countries and expressed his country's desire to expand ties in all fields, especially parliamentary relations. He conveyed the Yemeni Parliamentary speaker's invitation to Mr. Karrubi for an official visit to Yemen.

For his part, Mr. Karrubi expressed his satisfaction over the expansion of ties between the two countries and

stressed the [importance of] coordination in action of Islamic countries to solve the Persian Gulf crisis. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is opposed to the principle of invasion by any country. It believes that the only way the world of Islam can be immune from the greed of powers is through unity and solidarity of Muslims.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles pointed to double standards in the attitudes of world arrogance to the region's crisis and the Zionist crimes in the occupied territories. He reiterated: The presence of foreign forces is detrimental to the peoples of the region and meanwhile, the United States wants to take the world the brink of crisis.

In conclusion, Mr. Karrubi stressed the desire of the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand relations between the two countries and assist the Republic of Yemen in cultural and economic matters.

Yugoslavian Official Concludes Visit, Departs

LD1411085790 Tehran IRNA in English 0633 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 14, IRNA—Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar [title as received] left here Tuesday [13 November] night at the end of a two-day visit and talks with Iranian officials on Tehran-Belgrade ties, international issues and the Persian Gulf crisis. In an interview before departure, Loncar said that the two countries held identical views on the Persian Gulf crisis and discused political measures to end it.

Both sides were of the opinion that implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions were appropriate measures to counter the present crisis and that Yugoslavia as the chairman of the Non-aligned Movement should make further efforts to find political solutions to the crisis. Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said that future of the Tehran-Belgrade relations was promising.

Velayati added that the two sides are interested in further promotion of economic ties which is to be followed up in the forthcoming session of the joint Iran-Yugoslavia economic commission to be held in Belgrade. According to Velayati it was decided that Yugoslavia as the chairman of the Non-aligned Movement should take greater measures concerning the Persian Gulf crisis and presence of foreign forces in the region where almost all states are members of the movement.

He added that Loncar will visit the United Arab Emirates, Syria, Egypt, Jordan and other regional countries in this connection and will inform Iran of the outcome. The Yugoslav minister held separate meetings with president Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Foreign Minister Velayati and Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh. In his meeting with President Rafsanjani, the latter criticized the Non-aligned Movement for its weak stand vis-a-vis the current crisis in the Persian Gulf.

Mo'ayeri Meets With Zimbabwe, CSFR Officials

LD1311151990 Tehran IRNA in English 1018 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 13, IRNA—Iran's visiting presidential advisor in charge of international affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri discussed the latest developments in the Persian Gulf with Vice-President of Zimbabwe Simon Vengayi Muzenda and Chairman of the Federal Assembly of Czechoslovakia Dubcek here Monday. Mo'ayeri represented Iran in the enthronement ceremony of Emperor Akihito of Japan, held on Monday.

Mo'ayeri and Muzenda discussed anti-apartheid campaign of the frontline African countries. Meanwhile, Dubcek called for promotion of Tehran-Prague ties especially export of Iranian oil and natural gas and exchange of parliamentary delegations. He also praised Iran's stand vis-a-vis the Persian Gulf crisis.

44 Egyptian POW's 'Unilaterally' Released 13 Nov

LD1311114490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] Following the philanthropic actions of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], the second group of Egyptian prisoners, who had been captured by the fighters of Islam in the course of the imposed war, were unilaterally released this morning. According to a Central News Unit report, the release of this 44-man group came about in the wake of a request made by the Egyptian al-Azhar 'ulema [Muslim scholars of Cairo's al-Azhar University], and these prisoners were handed over to the prominent Egyptian scholar, Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali, at Tehran's Mehrabad airport, to be returned home.

Before leaving Tehran, Shaykh al-Ghazali, in an interview with reporters, expressed delight for the release of the Egyptian prisoners, thanked the Iranian officials for their efforts, and praised Iran's kindness and its islamic and humane treatment of the Egyptian prisoners. Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali also criticized the biased propaganda of the Western mass media, particularly that of Britain, on the treatment of the Iraqi POW's in Iran, and said that the POW's in Iran have been treated very humanely.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the leader of Lebanon's Islamic Tawhid [Unification] Movement, who had also come to Tehran for the same purpose, in an interview with reporters, thanked the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution and the Iranian officials for the release of the Egyptian prisoners. He also deplored the efforts of colonialism in trying to divide nations, adding: The two nation of Iran and Egypt are Muslims, and we hope that these two nations will have close ties in the future.

In conclusion, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban condemned the presence of the foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region and said: The Muslims should solve their own problems, and those who have invited the foreign forces to come to

the region have committed the highest treason against Muslims and the world of Islam.

Commercial Exhibition Opens in Azerbaijan

Officials To Meet

LD1211175390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Iran's first industrial, commercial and cultural exhibition in Baku was inaugurated today. The reporter dispatched by the Central News Unit to Baku to cover the holding of the said exhibition has filed the following report:

[Reporter] The first industrial, commercial and cultural exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran was inaugurated this afternoon in the presence of high-ranking officials of the two countries of Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union.

The exhibition, organised by the governorate general of East Azerbaijan in cooperation with the export promotion center of Iran, is being held in the Baku sports stadium, covering a land space of 2,000 square metres.

The industrial, commercial and cultural exhibition of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Azerbaijan has 166 pavilions. More than 200 production and industrial firms from East and West Azerbaijan are participating. Industrialists from the Islamic Republic of Iran are displaying a variety of goods such as building materials, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, textiles, food, handicrafts, household durable goods, electrical goods, minerals, as well as products of light and heavy industries and many other goods which can be exported to the Soviet republic of Azerbaijan and other republics of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan [sentence as heard].

The exhibition will run until 21 November. Industrialists of the Islamic Republic of Iran and officials of Soviet Azerbaijan will hold talks during the exhibition.

Delegations' Visit Detailed

NC1511083890 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 12 Nov 90

[Text] Establishing economic, technical, and cultural cooperation between the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] and the Eastern Azerbaijan Province of Iran was discussed during the meeting which was held by Ayaz Mutalibov, president of the Azerbaijan SSR, and Gasan Gasanov, chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers Presidium, with an economic and cultural delegation from Eastern Azerbaijan in Iran today. IRNA has reported that Shaykh-ul-Islam Allakhshukyur Pasha-zade, head of the Spiritual Administration of Soviet Muslims in the Transcaucasus, and other high-ranking officials of the Azerbaijan SSR also attended the meeting.

The sides stressed the importance of cooperation on their common border. Meanwhile, IRNA has reported that the talks primarily centered on matters related to the exchange of technical products, cooperation on the supply of natural gas to the towns on both sides of the Aras River, and the establishment of open markets in Dzhul'fa in the Azerbaijan SSR and (?Bilisavar) in Iran.

Akbar Periskar, governor of Eastern Azerbaijan Province, said that Eastern Azerbaijan places particular importance on improving and broadening its relations with the Azerbaijan SSR on the bases of the agreement that was reached in principle between the two countries. On his part, President Ayaz Mutalibov said that the Azerbaijan SSR was ready to establish cooperation with Iran on matters concerning the common border between the two countries and to establish joint factories with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Meanwhile, Akbar Periskar held talks with El'mira Kafarova, chairwoman of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet, yesterday. Speaking during the meeting, which was attended by a number of the representatives of the people of Tabriz in the Islamic Majles, Kafarova described the bilateral relations between Iran and the Azerbaijan SSR and the cooperation of the two countries on matters related to their common border as favorable. Kafarova also stressed the importance of improving the cooperation between the Azerbaijan SSR and the provinces bordering that republic in Iran in the economic and industrial fields.

Meanwhile, IRNA has reported that Akbar Periskar also met with Agayev, chairman of the Baku City Soviet Executive Committee, yesterday. The two sides discussed matters related to the question of town planning from the point of view of mutual cooperation.

Tehran Paper on Majles Differences, Persian Gulf

NC0911171890 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 25 Oct 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial from the "Weekly Political Analysis"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

At a time when the Islamic Revolution has raised its vociferous cry against the Zionist usurpers and the United States, and when the Islamic Republic needs the unity of its ranks and of the word more than ever before, some murmurings of dissent seem to reach one's ears.

One's apprehension is greater because the venue of these murmurings is the center which should be "an anchor for the society's stability", "for the unity of ranks", and the strata of society. It is extremely regrettable that from the Majles forum, which these days should invite the people to unity, whisperings of discord and disunity are emanating. [passage omitted]

The question is not whether criticism should be leveled but rather the mode this criticism should take. There is no problem with one airing one's opinion in conformity

with the norms of decorum and principles and calling for remedying certain matters. This modus operandi has been followed for the past three Majles terms and there has been no objection to it. In fact it has been an indication of the strength of the Majles and the system.

However, in indulging in criticism, one must not exceed the limits. In clearer terms, one must not ignore the "values", "principles", and "interests", otherwise the matters spill over the boundaries of constructive criticism and reform and smack of adventurism, personal attacks, and the sowing of discord. [passage omitted]

All the people have certain expectations from the Majles deputies and that is that they must heed the warnings of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i and act on his exhortations. [passage omitted]

The Arab Reactionaries, the Surrendering Heroes

The trend of events in the Persian Gulf has entered a new phase with the Saudi defense minister's announcement that Kuwait may be willing to grant some territorial concessions to Iraq. Even though these allegations were subsequently vehemently denied, it is obvious that such allegations are never made by mistake.

The Iraqi regime's reaction on this subject has been positive, officials have expressed their readiness to discuss it, and a withdrawal from the region under such circumstances has even been mentioned.

When the danger of a military confrontation in the region seems to have subsided, most of the countries seem to feel deprived of the "spoils of war" and have expressed their willingness to dispatch forces to the region to join the interventionist multinational force. In this way they may partake of the limitless dollars that the Arab reactionaries are frittering away in payment to others, and thus they may also participate in perpetuating the Arab reactionaries' life of degradation. [passage omitted]

Deputies Continue Discussion of State Budget

LD1311135490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Nov 90

[Text] The Majles, in continuation of its study of the amendment to the state budget law for this year, approved the main points of this bill. We draw your attention to our correspondent's report on this:

[Correspondent] The main points of the amendment bill on the state budget law were approved by the Majles deputies in today' open session, chaired by Mr. Karrubi. In this session the proposed amendments by the deputies about the employment of freed POW's was approved in the first part of this bill. According to the proposed amendment, the government and the hard currency allocation committee are duty bound to supply the required currency for production projects and technical services.

Also, at the same session, a proposal by one of the deputies was approved which considers the urban land organization to be in charge of allocating accommodation and land required for housing of the freed POW's in all cities; and the cost of preparation of such lands shall be met from budget shortfall credit of government departments and establishments. This proposal was added as a note to the amendment bill for the state budget.

Major Anti-Insurgent, Drug Operation Succeeds

LD1111124290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Nov 90

[Text] The first phase of operation Nasr has been staged in eastern and southeastern desert and border areas, with the regrouping of the operational forces of the Islamic Revolution Committee, to prevent the activities of the merchants of death [drug smugglers] and armed insurgents, and relative security has been established in the area.

The intelligence and operations deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Committee announced this news in a press conference. He described the outcome and details of the first phase of the operation, saying: during the two-week operation, which was staged with the participation of commanders of the anti-narcotics department, the central Muhammad Rasul al-Lah headquarters, and the Meqdad, Abu-Zar, Salman, 'Ali Ibn-Abi-Talib tactical headquarters, and all the Islamic revolution committees in the eastern border strip and desert areas, 28 armed insurgents and professional narcotics smugglers were arrested and 17 vehicles, 8 fire-arms and 260 kg of narcotics were seized. He added: In an armed clash during the operation, committee forces killed three armed insurgents and injured one.

Referring to the fact that the operation was staged to prevent the evil deeds of insurgents and smugglers and the entry of narcotics into the country, he said: The operation covers adjoining provinces, particularly the areas of Sarakh, Taybad, Khaf, Torbat-ye Jam, Tabas, Ferdows and Birjand, in Khorasan province; Behabad and Bafq in Yazd; Ravar, Bam, Kahnuj, Zarand, Jiroft and Shahdad, in Kerman Province; and all the villages in Sistan and Baluchestan. At present the operational forces are stationed in strategic positions for planning purposes.

Referring to the regrouping of the Islamic Revolution Committee forces to expedite the fight against contraband, insurgence and unrest, he said: A 400 km area [as heard] in the east of the country has been handed over to gendarmerie forces. Therefore, a large portion of revolution committee forces, facilities and equipment have been freed. Thus the committee's mobility and efficiency in the east and south of the country has been considerably increased.

He added: During the operation, committee forces identified and arrested Gholam Hoseyn Barahu'i, the leader of a big narcotics smuggling gang who had been wanted for two years for importing and distributing over 2.5

tonnes of opium. Also, advanced radio and other equipment were seized from the smugglers, and three civilians who had been taken hostage by the smugglers were freed.

He added: Ninety percent of the hostage-taking acts in the area are for the purpose of settling scores between merchants [of death] and insurgents. The remaining 10 percent are aimed at providing the money to purchase narcotics from major dealers.

Seven Narcotics Smugglers Executed 14 Nov

LD1411103190 Tehran IRNA in English 0837 GMT 14 Nov 90

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., Nov. 14 IRNA—Seven Narcotic smugglers were hanged in Torbat Heidariyeh, south of here Wednesday [14 November] after being convicted in the local Islamic revolutionary court.

They were found guilty of selling and distributing of as much as 185 kgs of opium and five kgs of heroin. Five guns, three grenades and large amounts of munitions were seized from the group.

*Italy Ranks As Third Trading Partner

91AS0083R London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Oct 90 p 4

[Text] Importing significant quantities of oil and other Iranian industrial goods in the last year, Italy was able to achieve third-place ranking among the Islamic Republic's trading partners, after the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan. Based on statistics published in an Italian commercial statistics publication, in 1989 this country had a total of about $1.9 billion in commercial exchanges with the Islamic Republic. Of this amount, about $1.15 billion is the value of the goods Italy bought from the Islamic Republic and the rest, about $750 million, is the value of the goods and products the Islamic Republic bought from Italy. Italian commercial officials announced that last year oil was first among the goods imported from the Islamic Republic, and it accounted for more than 85 percent of the value of the goods Italy imported from the Islamic Republic. Recently, during the opening of the 16th Tehran International Exposition, (Romo Aldorsi), Italy's commercial attache in the Islamic Republic, predicted that this year the value of the commercial exchanges between Rome and Tehran would increase about 2.4 billion rials. He noted that last year, in addition to crude oil, Italy bought marble, copper, pistachios, leather, and agricultural products from the Islamic Republic. The Tehran Italian Embassy's commercial official told reporters that the Italian Sak Nipon company is building a polyethylene factory in Arak. The official added: The Islamic Republic accounts for 6.36 percent of Italy's imported goods, and it is expected that during the five-year plan this figure will reach 12 percent.